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PART VI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN TURKEY.

October 1876.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

PART VI.

No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 24, 1876.

I BEG to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Report from Acting Consul Brown, at Galatz, on the passage of Russian volunteers, furnished at my request.

The name of the General I believe to have been Simeon Novoselinoff, whom M. Bratiano mentioned to me as Vasilieff or Basilieff.

M. Jonesco yesterday corroborated to me the accuracy of the statement respecting the activity of the Russian Consul at Jassy in forwarding the volunteers; and he would appear to act as if in the avowed capacity of agent to the Committees in Russia.

I am inclined to doubt that the Russian Consul-General at this place is even indirectly promoting the movement, as the regular agents of the Committees are established at Bucharest, and there would be no necessity for interference on the part of the Agent and Consul-General.

Mr. Brown speaks of "officers, privates," &c., but I think he should probably have said "soldiers of the reserve," and, perhaps, with greater accuracy, "time-expired men."

Many of the latter are described to me as miserably worn-out drunkards, or advanced in age, and it is obvious that the riff-raff of the population is being brought up by the Committees, a considerable portion of which will add but little solidity to the Servian forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Acting Consul Brown to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Galatz, September* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of 19th instant, and in compliance thereto, I beg to inform you that the greater number of the so-called Russian volunteers have hitherto passed Ibraila by entering Moldavia by Sculeni to Jassy, by rail down to Barbosh, the station between Galatz and Ibraila, thence to Ibraila on to Bucharest; from whence, I believe, viâ Giurgevo or Craiova to Turno, and thence to the seat of war. Their arrival at Ibraila is generally at about half-past 2 in the morning, and if the number be large, an express train takes them immediately forward, otherwise they go forward after a few hours' delay.

Some 500 have come forward from Odessa by the Austrian Lloyds Company's steam-

boats to Galatz, transhipped into the river-boats of the same Company, and up river to their destination.

Last Thursday, the 14th instant, about 180, consisting of 20 officers, 60 non-commissioned, and 100 privates, with 8 lady hospital nurses, took that route.

On Monday last, the 18th instant, 520 passed outside Ibraila by rail, consisting of about 70 officers, 100 non-commissioned, and 350 soldiers, under the command of a certain General Corciacof (not Gorciacof), since when at least 600 more have passed up in detachments of 1 to 200.

The soldiers and non-commissioned officers are all in plain white caps and clothes, but have their uniforms as baggage. The officers are mostly in undress uniforms, having a loose white overcoat, but make no secret of their destination; their passage and funds being provided by the Russian Consuls at Jassy and Bucharest.

The last batches of soldiers were all armed with revolvers, officers carrying their swords wrapped up in oil-cloth covers, with their overcoats; no doubt the soldiers' other fire-arms have either passed on or were in the train as baggage with them, of which no account can be had here, but obtainable at Bucharest by the local authorities on change of train.

I have not heard of the passage of any large number of horses by rail, which are more likely to go forward in strings overland, in order not to attract attention. Two or three now and then have gone by rail.

On the whole there does not appear much sympathy with the Russians in Galatz or Ibraila, as the upper class are mostly foreigners engaged in trade, and the lower depending on them, having rather an antipathy through experience. The only exceptions are a few Bulgarians, Serbes, and Slaves, a few of the military and employés, and some would-be officials out of office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. BROWN.

No. 2.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 343.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 28, 1876.*

SIGNOR MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated to me to-day that he considered this to be the most important crisis which had yet occurred in the Eastern difficulties, and that he had just telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to say to the Porte that unless it accepted the English peace proposals and granted an armistice the existence of the Turkish Empire in Europe was in danger. His words were, "il s'en va de l'existence de la Turquie en Europe." His Excellency said that Russia would consent to no modification of the terms proposed by your Lordship, which had been fortunate enough to unite the Powers in common action, and that she continued to demand the armistice.

He had from the beginning earnestly desired that England should come forward and take the place which, by the concurrence of events, seemed to be hers, and hers alone. She had done so. Your Lordship's policy had been successful where success was most difficult, that is to say, in conciliating the views of the Guaranteeing Powers; but this point gained, Turkey still conceived it possible to withstand the tide, and it was again for your Lordship to undertake the task of convincing it that if it hesitated in accepting these proposals, it was inevitably lost.

He begged me to say that he hoped your Lordship would leave no measure untried to convince the Porte of the extreme peril in which it stands at this moment; and in order to show the imminence of the danger, his Excellency read to me a paper stating that General Somarrow had been sent to Vienna to arrange with the Austro-Hungarian Government for an immediate joint occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and also for the entry of the combined fleets into the Bosphorus in case the Porte "tergiversated" in granting the armistice and accepting the proposals for peace put forward by your Lordship. The paper went on to say that these measures were necessary in order to prevent a general massacre of Christians.

I asked his Excellency whence this intelligence came to him, and he replied, "from Livadia." He went on to say that England was alone able to avert the execution of this design by compelling the Porte to acquiesce in your Lordship's demands. I informed his Excellency that Sir Henry Elliot's instructions were that he could not press the urgency of the situation upon the Turkish Government too strongly, and that, indeed,

your Lordship had omitted no means of proving to the Turks the hopelessness of their position, but that in accordance with his Excellency's request I would at once inform your Lordship by telegraph of the substance of the information which he had given to me, and his desire that efforts to obtain the submission of the Porte should be redoubled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 30, 1876, 6 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW'S return here is announced for Monday or Tuesday.

No. 4.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, midnight.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, it seems to me certain that Count Andrassy has declined to occupy Bosnia, but that he is probably disposed to send Austrian vessels to Bosphorus, as he spoke to me some days ago of such a measure being possibly expedient.

Baron Orczy has also asked me whether the Dardanelles might not be easily forced by landing troops to act against the rear of the batteries. He said, however, that Count Andrassy would decide nothing till he had received answer of the Porte.

No. 5.

Mr. Holmes to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 1, 9 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, October 1, 1876, 3 A.M.*

A BAND of 1,500 men (which must have come through Austria) has suddenly appeared at Teshneh on the Brood road upon several occasions, endeavouring to force Christians to revolt, murdering those who refuse.

No. 6.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1, 10·20 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October 1, 1876, 8·28 A.M.*

COUNT BULOW confirms Sir A. Buchanan's and Mr. Malet's news respecting Russian proposal to enforce policy of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople by an occupation of Turkish territory, and would be glad to know what you think of it.

He has telegraphed to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck, and to Vienna, but has received no answer yet.

No. 7.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1, 6·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1876, 1·30 P.M.*

I STRONGLY urged Turkish Ambassador yesterday to warn his Government of the danger of declining the offered terms of peace, and to express his fears that grave

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

measures would result from their rejection; there was still time before the Porte gave its answer.

He said he would telegraph immediately.

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[e]—*(Received October 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed last night as follows:—

"'Turks having repelled enemy's attack commenced this morning, assumed offensive, and, after hard fight, took and occupied crescent (*sic*) forming front of Servian position. Night prevented further advance. A counter demonstration in the direction of Alexinatz was stopped, and not permitted to cross the river.'"

No. 9.

Mr. Morier to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 134. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, September 20, 1876.*

AS I was about to leave the Foreign Office this afternoon, Senhor Corvo asked me to stop a few minutes longer as he had a communication to make to me, not on his own account, but on that of one of my colleagues.

He said that M. de Glinka, the Russian Minister, had just been with him, and that this gentleman being an invalid and living out of town, seldom toiled in to Lisbon during the hot weather unless he had some very special communication to make. On the present occasion he had come to inform him that he had lately received information from a very high quarter in Russia descriptive of the situation as it at present prevailed in the Imperial Court.

M. de Corvo then proceeded to repeat what M. de Glinka had said. The Emperor was as resolutely bent as he ever had been upon maintaining peace, and not incurring by any act of his the responsibility of plunging Europe into war, but the popular feeling in regard to the events in Servia was daily rising to such portentous proportions throughout the length and breadth of Russia, that it might be beyond even the Czar's power to resist its influence much longer.

The only hope of extrication out of a position which seemed otherwise hopeless, lay in a loyal understanding between Russia and Great Britain arrived at directly by the two Powers themselves, and without the officious intervention of a third Power,—an allusion which Senhor Corvo had no doubt was aimed at Germany.

The Emperor disclaimed all idea of wishing to use the present complications for establishing Russia on the Bosphorus, or for any schemes of Russian ambition whatever, and was convinced that his aims in regard to the Christian populations of Turkey were identical with those of Great Britain. He felt convinced that only misunderstandings ("des malentendus") stood in the way of a perfect agreement of views between the two countries.

Having concluded this communication, M. de Glinka rather abruptly asked M. de Corvo whether he knew what my views were on the Oriental question.

The conclusion to which M. de Corvo had come was that this communication had been made to him solely with the view of being passed on to me, and thus reaching your Lordship.

Owing to M. de Glinka's absence from Lisbon, and on his return, to his migration to the seaside, in a direction opposite to Cintra, there had as yet been no means of our doing more than exchanging cards at our respective houses in Lisbon, and he seems to have thought that the quickest way of disburthening himself of what he wished me to know consisted in depositing it with M. de Corvo, whom he knew that I saw every week.

I asked his Excellency what sort of weight he considered should be attached to a communication of this kind as emanating from M. de Glinka.

[e] Repeated to Embassies.

He replied that M. de Glinka undoubtedly possessed in a high degree the confidence of the Imperial family, that he was in frequent personal communication with some of its members, and that he knew that on former occasions he had been used as the means of putting out feelers and communicating views which it was desired should find their way to their address without compromising either sender or sendee. I asked whether he thought it was from the Emperor or the Empress that the present communication emanated. His Excellency was unable to say, but added that the circumlocutions used by M. de Glinka left no doubt that it emanated directly from the bosom of the Imperial family, and not from any political personages of lesser note.

Under these circumstances I thought it right to forward to your Lordship the cyphered telegram recorded in my despatch No. of this day's date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 10.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 166. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 23, 1876.*

M. DURANDO, the Italian Agent to Montenegro, returned yesterday to Ragusa, and I had a very long and interesting conversation with him this morning.

He read me the letter which the Prince had written to him respecting the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for an armistice, in which His Highness says that it gives him great pleasure to have "even indirect" communication with England.

He said that he had spoken to the Prince of my presence in Ragusa, and that His Highness regretted that I had not been charged to join the other foreign Agents in Montenegro.

His Highness, it seems, did not conceal from the Austrian, French, and Italian Agents the relief which their presence afforded him in view of the arrogant and dictatorial conduct of M. Yonine.

M. Durando is convinced that at this moment the Russians are detested in the Principality; and that they have lost all their influence over the Prince. M. Yonine, nevertheless, is making preparations to spend the winter at Cettigné.

I beg to inclose an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Stillman, which, as your Lordship will see, corroborates M. Durando's statements, and shows also that the sentiments of the "Times" Correspondent himself have undergone a remarkable change.

M. Durando and his colleagues are convinced of the absolute impregnability of the Principality, and are loud in their praise of the courage and devotion of the Montenegrins. M. Durando characterizes as gross calumnies all the stories of the Prince's personal cowardice.

On the other hand the Russian Secretary, who came back with M. Durando, maintains that the Prince is an arrant coward.

M. Durando says that the Prince is anxious for peace; but that His Highness argues that unless something is done for the Herzegovina the insurrection will continue; and that, as he cannot prevent his subjects taking part in it, he will be held responsible for the prolongation of the troubles.

The Russian language here has always been that the insurrection will continue in spite of the conclusion of peace with Montenegro.

M. Durando estimates the number of Montenegrins killed in action since the declaration of war at 600, and that of the wounded at about 1,400.

He says that there remain about 15,000 Montenegrins under arms; that they consider themselves quite safe on the Albanian frontier, and regard Moukhtar Pasha as having delivered himself into their hands, he having occupied a position from which they command every exit, and where they can intercept all his supplies.

Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Military Agent, seems, M. Durando says, to be of the same opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Mr. Stillman to Mr. Monson.

(Extract.) *Cettigné, September 21, 1876.*

I AVAIL myself of the opportunity of Durando's going down to send you the news, such as it is.

The fighting in its present limited state is over, I think, and diplomacy has got to do her work. In this line a great revolution has been made here, and the Russian authority is almost entirely gone, and, naturally, Russian influence much diminished. The Russians here have been behaving very much as if they were masters of the country, and have worn out Montenegrin patience by their imperious ways; while Yonine, since the war began, has been so rudely magisterial, that he has irretrievably broken his influence over the Prince, who has frankly and openly pushed him to the wall, and during the whole of my stay his position was one almost painful, from the great change shown towards him in the Prince's manner. Yonine began to dictate the military operations in the early part of the campaign after Bishnia, and carried matters so far that he produced open revolt; and since that, on his arrival in camp, he has been the weaker party in a feud with the Montenegrins, in which the Prince's secretary (a most able and judicious man) and Thömmel have been against him; and as the Prince, for the first time, has been favoured with two kinds of friendly counsel, he has been in a position to choose, which he never was before. Durando, on his arrival, threw an excellent influence into that of the Secretary, and Yonine's discomfiture is complete for the present,—so complete, that now the Russians have begun to detest the Montenegrins, and not a penny now comes in aid of the war or the wounded. The natural consequence of the absurd pretensions of Russia over Montenegro have begun to appear, and probably Russian subsidies will not be long continued. Everything goes now to Servia, favour and funds, volunteers and goodwill.

I am glad England's influence in the negotiations was intrusted to Durando,—a safer, juster, and more liberal representative could not have been found.

No. 11.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 168. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 24, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 166 of yesterday's date, respecting Montenegro, I have the honour to state that M. Durando came to me this morning, and renewed the conversation of yesterday, which had been interrupted by other visitors. He said that he considered it his duty to place before me, without any reservation, the situation such as he viewed it, because Her Majesty's Government, having requested Italy to act as the medium of communication with Montenegro respecting the armistice, would naturally feel interest as to the manner in which he had carried out the instructions he had received from M. Melegari.

At first, he said, the Prince was very averse to any cessation of the war, and his disinclination for an armistice was stimulated by the action of M. Yonine, the Russian Agent, who did all in his power to prevent any such consummation. The Austrian and French Agents, however, added their representations to those of M. Durando, and the Prince, with the impetuosity which seems to be his characteristic, became of a sudden as enthusiastic for peace as he had been before averse to it.

M. Durando repeated to-day, but at much greater length, the substance of his conversation with the Prince as to the relations of Montenegro with England. His Highness did not conceal his dislike at having always had to deal with the Consuls at Scutari; and M. Durando says that it is clear that he would never be cordial with an Agent residing in Albania. I have already referred to this in a report I addressed to Sir Andrew Buchanan on the 5th instant, and I have the strongest conviction that M. Durando is correct.

M. Durando was good enough to say to the Prince, that, having been on intimate terms with me for some months, he felt sure that His Highness might venture to converse with me frankly, and might trust to my discretion and impartiality, and His Highness, upon that, begged him to arrange that, if possible, I should obtain the authorization of Her Majesty's Government to go to Cettigné.

In reporting this to your Lordship, I have only to add that, while I believe the visit

of an English Agent to the Prince would be productive of much good, I have no pretension to recommend myself for such a mission; I would only venture to urge that the person so sent should not be a Consul residing in Turkish territory.

The early departure of the mail steamer does not allow me to lay before your Lordship by this post all that I have to say respecting the claims of Montenegro to territorial concessions, and the views of the Prince and of the foreign Agents with regard to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 12.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 431.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to-day to M. de Giers the explanation of the term "local or administrative autonomy," as given in your Lordship's telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 15th instant.

As this negotiation has been conducted directly between London and Livadia by Count Schouvaloff, M. de Giers was unable to state whether this explanation had been conveyed by Count Schouvaloff to Prince Gortchakow, but his Excellency stated his belief that it had been so understood by the Chancellor.

From telegrams which M. de Giers communicated to me, it appeared, however, that Count Schouvaloff had reported the phrase used by your Lordship as "a large measure of autonomy, local or administrative, for Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, without breaking the political link with Turkey" (the words were "sans rebacher le lien politique avec la Turquie.")

There is a certain difference of meaning between the phrase reported by Count Schouvaloff and your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, and I therefore thought it right to bring this difference to your Lordship's notice in my telegram of this day.

Prince Gortchakow must, however, have been in possession, through M. de Giers, on Saturday evening, of the distinct instructions sent by your Lordship on the 21st instant to Sir H. Elliot, which would have enabled his Highness to send the necessary instruction to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to support the conditions of peace submitted by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 13.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 433.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876.*

AT an interview I had this morning I communicated to M. de Giers, in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, the instructions forwarded on the 21st instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the basis of peace.

M. de Giers took a precise note of them, and said that he would immediately transmit them by telegraph to Prince Gortchakow.

I inquired of his Excellency whether Prince Gortchakow had been informed, and had approved of the additional phrase which your Lordship had introduced into the original conditions of peace at the suggestion of Count Andrassy.

M. de Giers stated that his latest intelligence from Livadia was dated on the 17th, and that it contained no reference to this subject.

His Excellency stated that his reports expressed the great satisfaction of the Emperor and of Prince Gortchakow, that Her Majesty's Government had taken the lead in the negotiations for peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 14.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 435.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive, yesterday afternoon, your Lordship's telegram *en clair* dated Saturday midnight, refuting, on the authority of Sir A. Kemball, the reported breaches of the armistice by the Turkish forces.

I communicated this telegram to-day to M. de Giers, and requested his Excellency to transmit the intelligence it reported to Prince Gortchakow, which he promised to do.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 15.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 436.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Riga, reporting that orders have been given to the householders at Riga to be prepared to lodge any soldiers now on furlough, who may be called into active service, and also that the general traffic on the St. Petersburgh and Wilna Railway in the direction of Düneburg has been much impeded, if not suspended, in consequence of the large numbers of troops and of artillery being conveyed to the south.

Since forwarding this information to your Lordship, I have made inquiries, but I cannot learn any confirmation of Mr. Grignon's report, nor do I believe that any dislocation of troops has taken place, or is at this moment taking place, of the nature he refers to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Consul Grignon to Lord A. Loftus.

Riga, September 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to make known to your Excellency that notice has been given to householders in this town that they are to be prepared at any time to lodge such soldiers, now absent on leave from their regiments, as may be called into active service.

It may also interest your Excellency to know that I have heard, on authority which I believe to be good, that the general traffic on the St. Petersburgh and Wilna Railway, in the direction of Düneburg, has been for some days past very much impeded, if not suspended, in consequence of the very large number of troops being conveyed to the south, and the great quantity of artillery being sent in the same direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES GRIGNON.

No. 16.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 437.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a précis of articles from the Russian press on Eastern affairs by Mr. J. Michell:—

1. From the "Exchange Gazette" representing the conditions of peace proposed by the Porte as quite unacceptable, and stating that if war should arise of this Slav question Russia cannot be held responsible for it.

2. From the "Novoe Vremia" deprecating the terms of peace proposed by the Porte, and stating that the voice of Russia in this question must play the leading part, and that the more warlike is the tone of Russia the sooner will peace be concluded.

3. From the "Golos," which is convinced that the Porte will yield to an ultimatum, and that military action will not be required.

4. From the "Golos," stating that it is impossible for Prince Milan to receive the title of King from the hands of the army, as no military dictatorship has existed in Servia, and it cannot be believed that the Servian people will approve of the conduct of the troops in this matter.

5. From the "Moscow Gazette," which expresses its opinion in favour of an autonomy for Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, under the suzerainty of the Sultan, which, if supported by England, the Porte could not dare to reject.

The whole tone of the Russian press in regard to England has completely changed, and it has become much more friendly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Précis of Articles in the Russian Press.

CONDITIONS OF PEACE PROPOSED BY TURKEY.—The "Exchange Gazette" of the 17th September regards the conditions of peace proposed by the Porte as very unsatisfactory and unacceptable in every respect. There is no doubt, it remarks, that the cause of the Slavs is now passing through the last and most critical crisis, and declares that war at the present moment is possible. Russia, however, must not be reproached for such a war. She gave undoubted proofs of her desire for peace, and of her readiness to settle the difficulties of the Slav question by mutual agreement with the other Guaranteeing Powers. But the Russian people cannot divest themselves of their sympathies for the Slavonians. With Christian resignation, full of faith and the fear of God, and with a full consciousness of the gravity of the task before them, the Russian people will receive the cup, if it be inevitable, and will drain it to the dregs. The diplomacy of Europe knows this, of course, and therefore if war should break out, it will be owing to its having been unavoidable.

The "Novoe Vremia" likewise regards the conditions of peace, as laid down by the Porte, as impossible.

It must not be forgotten, it declares, that the voice of Russia in this question must play a leading part, and it is hardly to be doubted that the Powers of Europe would have exhibited any interest regarding the fate of the Southern Slavs, were they not moved by the apprehension that the sufferings of the Christian subjects of Turkey would, at last, exhaust the patience of Russia, and induce her to draw the sword. The pressure which the great States have brought to bear against Russia is principally attributable to this apprehension, and it is this that gives the Russian Government such weight, and places her in the position of obtaining the most advantageous conditions for the Southern Slavs. The more bellicose the tone adopted by Russia the sooner will peace be concluded, inasmuch as Europe is ready to force the Porte to grant her Christian subjects all possible guarantees, in order to avoid a collision between the Powers, the consequence of which it is difficult to foresee. . . . . .

Russian society, which is keenly watching the progress of the struggle, and which places entire confidence in the energy of the Russian Government, nevertheless awaits with eager impatience and secret hope the utterance of that mighty word which shall put an end to the present state of excruciating uncertainty.

In every case we are on the eve of something decisive. The foreign papers are dull and colourless, just as if nothing were taking place, and nothing being prepared. Is it not the lull before the storm, before the thunder which shall resound at the judgment-seat of God? The answer of the Porte destroys every hope of a peaceable solution of our demands; and for the honour of Russia there remains but one course which will enable us to attain the fulfilment of our legal demands, and we are convinced that Russia will firmly pursue it, supported by the enthusiasm of the whole nation, and accompanied by the benedictions of all our Slavonian brethren, who will acquire new life and fresh outlets for development after having destroyed the common foe of Slavism.

The "Golos," however, is of opinion that the answer of the Porte to the Great Powers will not lead to any military action. The Porte must yield on the presentation of an ultimatum. She may even defer her assent until she sees an army of occupation occupy her territories or approach her frontiers, but succumb she will before matters come to a collision. We shall only believe in a serious resistance on the part of Turkey when it will be proved by facts.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Précis of Article in the "Golos."

PROCLAMATION OF PRINCE MILAN AS KING OF SERVIA BY THE TROOPS.—IN its political review of the situation, the "Golos," of the 7th September, says, with reference to the Proclamation of Prince Milan as King of Servia, that the necessity of having recourse to such a desperate measure can only proceed from a supposition of the hopelessness of the condition of the Servian cause.

It is difficult to imagine that the Servian people will approve of the conduct of the troops in this matter, and that the Skupchina will confirm the wishes of the soldiery by its consent.

It is impossible for the Prince to receive the title of King at the hands of his soldiers. Do those who have taken this step at Alexinatz understand all its gravity, and have they carefully weighed the consequences? Up to the present moment we are not aware that a military dictatorship ruled in Servia, and that the troops were invested with the power of deciding momentous questions of State. The whole demonstration, we imagine, must be the result of some misunderstanding, the cause of which will probably soon be explained.

Inclosure 3 in No. 16.

Précis of Article from the "Moscow Gazette."

IN view of the anti-Turkish demonstrations now being made in England, and the alleged pro-Turkish policy of the British Government, the "Moscow Gazette" says there is no necessity for leaving the initiative in the solution of the difficulty in the hands of the present Cabinet.

In the opinion of this journal, a convenient opportunity now presents itself to the Continental States, and especially to the three Northern Powers, for the elaboration and presentation of a scheme of autonomy which would embrace Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, leaving these provinces under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan, to whom they would pay certain tribute. The outcry in England may not perhaps be able to force the British Government into direct action in favour of the Christians, but it will hardly tolerate any opposition to the good efforts of the other Powers, while, without the support of England, it is impossible to suppose that the Porte would dare to reject any proposal which might be made to it in the shape of an ultimatum by the Continental Powers.

No. 17.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 439. Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, September 26, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatches on the complimentary mission of Field-Marshal Manteuffel to Warsaw, I am confidentially informed that, when the Emperor Alexander was at Berlin in May last, His Majesty expressed a hope to the Emperor William that he might count on his support and aid, if required, in regard to Eastern affairs.

The Emperor William is reported to me as having replied that the Emperor Alexander might count on him personally, but that he could not count on Germany.

This reply appears to have made a profound impression on the Emperor Alexander, and to have caused His Majesty great anxiety as to the part which Germany might take in the event of war.

This impression appears to have remained in the Emperor Alexander's mind during his stay at Ems, and until the arrival of Field-Marshal Manteuffel at Warsaw. My informant states that from that moment the mind of the Emperor Alexander appeared to be relieved of an anxious care; and His Majesty gave proof of his intense satisfaction by giving to the Marshal the Colonelcy of a Russian regiment,—an honour which is scarcely ever conferred, except on foreign Sovereigns or Royal Princes.

I am informed that Marshal Manteuffel was charged by the Emperor William to state to the Emperor Alexander that, as it was well known that His Majesty entertained no

aggressive projects, and that he had no intentions of conquest or annexation, and as His Majesty had proved that his sole object was to protect the Christians of the East, the Emperor William and the German nation would support him, and that, if necessary, the German army would be at his disposal.

I cannot say how far this information may be correct, but there can be no doubt that the mission of Marshal Manteuffel gave the greatest satisfaction to the Emperor Alexander.

At all events, this report is current and believed here, and it has produced a good impression on the public mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 18.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 441.)

St. Petersburgh, September 26, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith, from the official "Turkestan Gazette," an order of the day of General Kaufmann, relative to the expedition of General Scobeleff against the Kara-Kirghizes.

I further annex an article in French translation from the "Golos," published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," on the political position created by the establishment of a Mussulman power under Yakoub Bey in Kashgar.

I have also the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the official journal of the Government of the Caucasus, giving an account of the disturbances which took place in the Government of Koutais in the month of June last.

These disturbances did not bear any political character, and were merely of a local and of an agrarian nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{8}{20}$, 1876.

LE "Messager du Turkestan" publie l'ordre du jour suivant de l'Aide-de-camp Général de Kaufmann, daté du 26 Juillet:—

"Les Kara-Kirghizes des montagnes de l'Ahaï, qui avaient refusé de soumettre à la domination Russe, avaient organisé dans ces derniers temps des bandes plus ou moins nombreuses avec l'intention évidente de se livrer à des incursions dans la vallée du Ferghanah et de soulever contre la Russie une population tout récemment pacifiée.

"Je donnai en conséquence au Général-Major Skobélew l'ordre de faire occuper par de petits détachements les issues des montagnes donnant sur la vallée, et de diriger le gros de ses forces vers la partie orientale des monts, où un grand nombre de Kara-Kirghizes se trouvaient concentrés sous la conduite d'Abdul Kerim Bek, le nouveau prétendant, d'Abdul Bek, d'Omar Bek et de Souleïman Oudaïtchi, et d'autres anciens complices du chef d'insurgés Poulat Bek, exécuté à Marghelan. Ces fauteurs de désordres avaient contraint par menaces les nomades de cette partie des monts à faire cause commune avec eux.

"En exécution de cet ordre le Général-Major Skobélew organisa plusieurs corps volants avec les garnisons des forts d'Andidjan, d'Och et de Goulcha, et marcha à leur tête contre le détachement principal des Kara-Khirgizes, qui occupaient sur les bords des rivières Torouk et Schot une position que les indigènes considéraient comme inabordable. Les garnisons des autres forts et villes du Ferghanah furent distribuées par petits détachements sur toute notre ligne de défense, notamment à Kostakos, à Isfar, à Soukh, à Vouadil, à Outch-Kourgane et à Naoukat. Ces détachements, qui avaient pour mission de fermer aux pillards l'accès de la vallée, furent placés sous les ordres du Colonel Baron de Meller-Zakomelsky, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, et Adjoint du Commandant des troupes du territoire de Ferghanah.

"Arrivé à Och, le Général Skobélew s'avança à travers le défilé d'Ak-Boura sur le village de Nopane à la tête d'un détachement composé des 3e et 4e compagnies du 1er bataillon des chasseurs de Turkestan, d'une demi-sotnia de Cosaques et de quelques sapeurs, avec deux fusées, et une pièce de montagne. Une compagnie de chasseurs à cheval, avec

deux fusées, commandée par le Major Jonine, fut dirigée sur la gauche le long de la rivière Taldyk ; un troisième détachement enfin, composé de deux sotnias de Cosaques et d'une escouade de chasseurs avec deux fusées, dut s'avancer vers la droite dans la direction du kourgane d'Omar-Bek ; ce détachement était placé sous les ordres du Colonel Prince Wittgenstein, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

"Le Général Skobélew se proposait d'attaquer de front la position ennemie, tandis que les deux détachements latéraux avaient ordre de l'attaquer de flanc et par derrière. Afin d'infliger à l'ennemi une défaite totale, le Général Skobélew avait fait avancer de Goulcha sur Kyzil-Kourgane un détachement comprenant deux compagnies de chasseurs et une sotnia de Cosaques destiné à couper la retraite aux Kara-Kirghizes. La direction de ce détachement avait été confiée d'abord au Capitaine Kouropatkine, de l'Etat-Major, mais cet officier ayant été blessé grièvement à la main pendant une attaque de nuit, le détachement passa sous les ordres du Major Radzéfovsky, du 4e bataillon de ligne du Turkestan.

"Malgré les difficultés inouïes d'une marche dans les montagnes par des sentiers défoncés et presque impraticables, les détachements firent leur devoir. L'ennemi, qui avait cru impossible une attaque dans des conditions aussi difficiles, se voyant tourné et redoutant un désastre complet, se livra à une fuite désordonnée, abandonnant à nos troupes près de 2,000 têtes de bétail, que le Général Skobélew fit distribuer aux habitants qui avaient prêté leur assistance à nos troupes pendant l'expédition.

"C'est ainsi que notre entreprise a été couronnée d'un succès complet, sans effusion de sang, grâce aux sages et énergiques dispositions du Général Skobélew, et aux efforts des vaillantes troupes du Turkestan, qui ont appris à ne compter pour rien les obstacles naturels, le nombre des ennemis et des positions retranchées qu'à première vue on jugerait inexpugnables. Gloire et honneur à nos braves soldats du Turkestan!

"Les mesures prises ultérieurement par le Général Skobélew sont de nature d'assurer une tranquillité durable à la population sédentaire et aux nomades du territoire de Ferghanah.

"Je suis heureux d'avoir de nouveau une occasion de témoigner ma satisfaction à tous ceux qui ont concouru à l'entreprise, à commencer par le vaillant chef jusqu'au dernier de ses subordonnés, et de pouvoir porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de Sa Majesté l'Empereur."

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of August $\frac{16}{31}$, 1876.

Les Journaux Russes.—La "Voix" consacre un de ses articles de fond à l'examen de la situation politique que s'est créée dans le monde Musulman Yakoub Bek, le souverain de Kashgar, at au rôle qui pourrait échoir à ce personnage remarquable dans les convulsions qui menacent l'extrême Orient.

On se rappelle, dit notre confrère, qu'une insurrection des Mahométans éclata sur les confins occidentaux de la Chine il y a une quinzaine d'années et que cette révolte se propagea avec un tel succès qu'au bout de quelques années les Chinois furent refoulés de l'est vers l'intérieur du pays, sur une étendu de près de 2,000 verstes. A ses débuts, l'insurrection revêtait un caractère tout politique, mais à mesure que marchaient les événements le côté religieux de la lutte s'accentuait de plus en plus, et si le but final du mouvement—le remplacement de la domination Chinoise par un puissant Etat Musulman—n'a pas été atteint dans son intégrité, il s'est constitué néanmoins dans une des parties de la Chine occidentale, dans la vallée formée par les fleuves Tarim et Yarkend, un redoutable Etat théocratique et militaire à la fois, ayant à sa tête un homme dont ses ennemis mêmes ne contestent pas les talents.

Yakoub Bek,—car c'est de lui qu'il s'agit,—est né dans les environs de Tashkent et a fait ses études à Samarcande, dans le médressé le plus renommé du Boukhara. Sa carrière politique a été des plus accidentées ; d'abord serviteur fidèle de Khoudoïar Khan, l'ex-souverain du Khokand, il défendit le territoire d'Akmétchet contre un assez fort détachement Russe ; puis, s'étant mis à fomenter des troubles dans le Khanat, il fut envoyé au Kashgar, où il défit les Chinois et se rendit maître du pays.

La domination du Kashgar ne suffisait cependant point à l'ambition de Yakoub-Bek ; il visait plus haut ; son vœu secret était de devenir Souverain indépendant, Faut, chef des Musulmans de l'Asie Centrale ; d'être reconnu comme tèlé par le Padischah et d'être soutenu par ce dernier dans la lutte qu'il se proposait d'entreprendre pour délivrer les populations Mahométanes "du joug des infidèles." On sait que Yakoub a atteint en partie ce qu'il désirait et que la bénédiction du Vicaire du Prophète n'a pas manqué à l'entreprise qu'il rêve.

N'ignorant pas les ressources des Européens, et comprenant parfaitement que le Khokand a perdu son indépendance en partie pour la raison que les troupes bien disciplinées et convenablement armées lui manquaient, Yakouk-Bek a consacré tous ses soins à l'organisation de son armée ; il a réussi, avec l'aide d'instructeurs Turcs et Anglais, à former un corps assez puissant, et les expéditions contre les Dounganes lui fournissent l'occasion d'aguerrir ses troupes. Yakoub-Bek s'est mis aussi à rechercher l'assistance du Gouvernement des Indes, et, fort de la connivence qu'il y rencontra, il envoya pour la voie des Indes une Ambassade à Constantinople, qui lui rapporta un Firman du Sultan lui assurant le titre d'Emir.

Actuellement Yakoub-Bek jouit d'une influence immense aux yeux des Musulmans de l'Asie Centrale ; c'est là un fait dont il importe de bien se rendre compte. Des expériences récentes nous ont appris ce qu'est le fanatisme de ces Musulmans lorsqu'une personalité énergique et puissante en dirige les mouvements.

L'attitude de Yakoub-Bek vis-à-vis de la Russie ne saurait donner le change sur ses intentions réelles. Son malheur est qu'il doit faire face à deux ennemis à la fois : les Russes à l'ouest et les Dounganes à l'est, et comme il a fort à cœur de protéger la frontière orientale du Kaschgar contre les incursions de ces derniers, il évite avec soin tout ce qui pourrait donner ombrage à la Russie et se montre plein de déférence à l'égard du Gouverneur-Général du Turkestan. C'est à cette situation politique difficile que l'on doit attribuer son consentement au Traité de Commerce conclu avec la Russie ; c'est elle aussi qui explique pourquoi Yakoub-Bek est resté le spectateur de nos luttes avec le Khiva et le Kokhand.

La "Voix" cite un témoignage curieux et significatif de l'influence que Yakoub-Bek s'est créée. Lorsqu'en 1871 le Gouverneur-Général du Turkestan engagea Khoudoïar-Khan à l'assister dans la lutte contre le Kaschgar, le Khan refusa net, parce qu'il redoutait que ses troupes ne prissent parti pour Yakoub, "le champion de la foi Musulmane."

La "Voix" nous donne ensuite quelques renseignements sur l'organisation des troupes du Kaschgar et sur l'intimité des relations qui se sont établies entre ce pays et la Porte. Toutes ces informations sont empruntées à la "Gazette Officielle du Turkestan."

L'armée de Yakoub Bek s'est recrutée principalement parmi les Kiptchaks, les habitants du Khokand et du Boukhara et d'autres peuplaces Musulmanes de l'Asie Centrale ; c'est une armée régulière et portant un uniforme proposé par le Sultan. Elle est exercée par des officiers Turcs.

La monnaie qui circule dans le Kaschgar porte le nom du Sultan ; aussi la population reconnaît-elle la souveraineté du Padichah et considère-t-elle Yakoub Bek comme son Lieutenant.

Un fait qui prouve bien l'intimité qui existe entre le Kaschgar et la Porte, c'est que lorsque Yakoub Bek envoya à Taschkent une mission pour régler une contestation, il l'autorisa à télégraphier au besoin à l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à St. Pétersbourg pour demander sa médiation.

Nous croyons, dit la "Voix," en terminant, que toutes ces circonstances ne doivent pas être perdues de vue à une époque où, dans l'ébranlement que subit la Turquie, l'idée que la force des choses obligera un jour l'Empire Ottoman à transporter son centre de gravité en Asie, devra se présenter nécessairement un jour ou l'autre à l'esprit des Turcs.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Extracts from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of August $\frac{7}{19}$ and $\frac{9}{21}$, 1876.

LE "Caucase" publie le récit suivant des troubles qui ont eu lieu au mois de Juin dans le district de Sougdidi du Gouvernement de Koutaïs :—

"Il y avait à cette époque, dit la feuille que nous citons, juste neuf ans que les paysans du district de Sougdidi et des districts voisins de Senak et de Letchgoume avaient été émancipés, et le contrat que les paysans des villages de Lija et de Pakhoulani (district de Sougdidi) avaient fait avec leur ancien propriétaire, le Prince Dadian, était arrivé à son terme ; d'après ce contrat, les paysans étaient assujettis à certaines prestations pendant neuf ans ; passé ce terme, les corvées devaient être remplacées par une redevance en argent. Cependant, par suite d'une fausse interprétation du règlement sur l'émancipation, les paysans étaient dans l'idée que les redevances de toute espèce qu'ils avaient à acquitter envers leur ancien propriétaire devaient cesser neuf ans après l'émancipation ; c'est ce malentendu qui les a déterminés à refuser le paiement des redevances au Prince Dadian.

"Les explications qui leur furent données par l'arbitre de paix et par d'autres employés, les exhortations que le Gouverneur de la Province leur adressa ne réussirent pas à con-

vaincre les paysans de leur erreur ; et après leur avoir accordé un dernier délai de quinze jours pour payer la redevance les autorités se virent obligées de faire occuper militairement le village de Lija. Aux approches de la troupe les chefs de famille quittèrent le village par troupes, se dispersèrent dans les environs et cherchèrent à engager les paysans des villages voisins à une résistance commune contre les exigences illégitimes, selon eux, de l'autorité.

"Pendant ce temps il se formait près de Lija des attroupements qui devenaient à chaque instant plus nombreux et plus menaçants : le lendemain le nombre des réfractaires s'élevait à deux mille environ. Dans ces circonstances le chef du district ne jugea pas prudent de laisser stationner le détachement militaire à Lija et il l'envoya dans un autre village.

"Cependant, comme la fermentation allait croissant, que le tiers du district (4,000 familles) se trouvait en révolte et que le mouvement menaçait de se communiquer aux districts voisins, le Gouverneur de Koutaïs fit expédier deux nouveaux bataillons à Songdidi ; en même temps son Excellence le lieutenant par intérim du Caucase délégua dans le district le Prince Giorgiadsé, Membre du Conseil de la Lieutenance, pour assister le Gouverneur de Koutaïs dans la répression des désordres.

"Lorsque ces deux fonctionnaires arrivèrent à Songdidi, le 15 Juin, ils apprirent qu'une grande partie des fauteurs des désordres avaient l'intention de se rendre dans les villages du midi du district afin de chercher à persuader les habitants de ces villages de faire cause commune avec eux. On décida de les prévenir en envoyant des soldats dans les villages exposés aux excitations des meneurs et l'on expédia, en effet, le lendemain un petit détachement de 65 chasseurs et de 30 cavaliers sous la conduite du Lieutenant-Colonel Prinz, membre de l'Administration des Affaires des Paysans de la Province. Le détachement rencontra près du village de Létsourtsoumé une troupe de mécontents et en saisit une centaine, qui furent enfermés dans le bâtiment de l'Administration Communale de Létsourtsoumé. Le reste de la bande se dispersa ; mais le lendemain, vers deux heures de l'après-midi, les mécontents revinrent en nombre plus considérable et demandèrent la mise en liberté des détenus.

"Le Lieutenant-Colonel Prinz s'efforça de calmer cette foule surexcitée, et de convaincre les paysans de rentrer chez eux ; il leur déclara catégoriquement que les prisonniers ne leur seraient rendus en aucun cas. Rien n'y fit ; enhardis par les concessions qu'ils avaient obtenues dans des circonstances semblables à Lija, les émeutiers devinrent de plus en plus menaçants.

"Vers cinq heures, le Commandant du détachement se vit obligé, après avoir réitéré ses exhortations de la manière la plus pressante, de commander le feu. A la première salve du détachement les émeutiers répondirent par des coups de fusil, mais à la seconde ils se dispersèrent, en laissant quinze des leurs sur la place. On a su dans la suite que le nombre des victimes de cette déplorable affaire ne s'est pas borné à ce chiffre : dix-huit hommes ont été tués et une trentaine blessés.

"Le détachement du Lieutenant-Colonel Prinz n'a eu en tout qu'un homme blessé.

"Le lendemain les villages firent tour à tour leur soumission. Les paysans des villages de Lija et de Pakhoulani payèrent leurs redevances et les fauteurs des désordres se laissèrent arrêter sans opposer la moindre résistance.

"Actuellement la tranquillité est rétablie dans tous les districts et les troupes sont rentrées dans leur garnison."

No. 19.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 2.*)

(No. 442.) *St. Petersburgh, September 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's attention will probably have been drawn to the publication by a French newspaper "La France" of a pretended offensive and defensive Treaty between Germany and Russia bearing the signatures of Princes Bismarck and Gortchakov.

M. de Giers has denied categorically the existence of any such Treaty, and declares it to be a forgery and a mystification.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship articles from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" (the semi-official organ) and from the "Agence Russe," confirming the apocryphal nature of this pretended Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Extrait from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September $\frac{8}{20}$, 1876.

NOUS avons reçu ces jours derniers un télégramme de Paris, que nous nous sommes abstenus de communiquer à nos lecteurs. Il nous signalait la publication par le journal "La France" d'un Traité de Paix Offensif et Défensif conclu le 11 Juin dernier à Berlin entre les Empires de Russie et d'Allemagne, dans la prévision que les événements d'Orient aboutiraient à une guerre. C'est un Traité en dix Articles signé par les Chanceliers des deux Empires, dont cependant nous croyons savoir que ni l'un ni l'autre ne se trouvait à cette date à Berlin. Des journaux de Paris ayant exprimé des doutes sur l'authenticité de ce document, M. de Girardin a maintenu celle-ci, en invoquant cette clause dont sa publication avait été émaillée : "Pour copie conforme certifiée, signé Comte Adlerberg."

Nos lecteurs doivent se sentir pris d'un vif accès d'hilarité en ce représentant M. le Comte Adlerberg certifiant à "La France" l'authenticité d'un document que M. Emile de Girardin a l'indiscrétion de livrer au public sans l'autorisation des Gouvernements intéressés.

Maintenant que nous avons sous les yeux le document publié par "La France," nous pouvons cependant faire à notre tour à l'éminent directeur de la feuille Parisienne une révélation qui va peut-être vivement froisser son amour-propre non-seulement littéraire, mais encore national.

Cette révélation,—que nous croyons beaucoup plus sûre que sa révélation à lui,—c'est que M. de Girardin a été mystifié. . . . par un Allemand. En parcourant les dix Articles dont se compose le prétendu Traité, nous n'avons pas eu de peine à remarquer que ce "document" n'a pas été rédigé en Français, mais que c'est une traduction de l'Allemand. Il y a là des phrases qui ne s'emploient jamais à titre original dans la langue Française, mais qu'on retrouve sous la plume de traducteurs peu expérimentés. Pour l'auteur des "coups de crosse dans le dos," cette mystification de la part d'un Allemand doit être d'une mortification tout particulièrement cuisante.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe."

LE DOCUMENT APOCRYPHE DU JOURNAL "LA FRANCE."—Le journal "La France" que M. Emile de Girardin dirige avec ce brillant talent de publiciste que tout le monde lui connaît, vient d'être l'objet d'une regrettable mystification. Elle a publié, dit le télégraphe, ce qu'elle prétend être "le Traité d'Alliance Offensive et Défensive, préliminaire signé à Varsovie entre la Russie et l'Allemagne." Elle fait plus, elle promet à qui doutera de l'authenticité de l'acte de montrer les signatures. Cela seul aurait dû, ce nous semble, rendre l'intelligent directeur de "La France," qui pourtant a vieilli sous le harnais, non seulement circonspect, mais plus que sceptique.

Quoiqu'il en soit, nous sommes à même d'opposer à ce prétendu Traité le démenti le plus formel et le déclarons faux et apocryphe. Lorsque les rapports entre deux Gouvernements sont basés sur les liens et les sentiments personnels qui unissent les deux Empereurs d'Allemagne et de Russie, ces rapports se passent parfaitement de Traités et de signatures.

On nous télégraphie de Paris que la publication par le journal "La France" du prétendu Traité d'Alliance Offensive et Défensive entre la Russie et l'Allemagne, que nous avons qualifié l'autre jour d'apocryphe, a valu à ce journal une citation du parquet sous prévention de fausses nouvelles. Nous regrettons qu'un journal aussi sympathique et aussi sérieux que "La France," dirigé par un publiciste de l'expérience de M. Emile de Girardin, se soit laissé prendre à ce qu'on nous dit être l'œuvre, non pas, comme nous l'avions cru dès l'abord, d'un farceur, mais d'un escroc. On assure en effet que, proposé d'abord au "Gaulois" pour 100,000 fr., l'étrange factum aurait été acheté par "La France" pour 10,000 fr. (!!?!) C'est payer bien cher le déplaisir d'être mystifié. Comment se fait-il pourtant que l'esprit prudent et sceptique de M. Emile de Girardin n'ait pas été mis en éveil par les seules considérations que voici :—

1. Les Chancelleries en général, celles de St. Pétersbourg et de Berlin en particulier, n'ont pas l'habitude de laisser leurs documents secrets à la disposition du premier venu.

2. Au mois de Juin, date que porte le faux manuscrit, ni le Chancelier de l'Empire de Russie, Prince Gortchakow, ni le Chancelier de l'Empire d'Allemagne, Prince de Bismarck, n'étaient à Berlin.

3. Le Prince Gortchakow n'ayant pas quitté cette année l'Empereur Alexandre et ayant accompagné Sa Majesté à Berlin, à Ems, puis à Varsovie, comment le document pouvait-il être contre-signé par le Comte A. d'Adlerberg, Ministre de la Cour?

M. de Girardin ne pouvait pas ignorer que la signature du Chancelier de l'Empire ne peut pas être contre-signée. Il n'aurait pas été bien difficile à M. de Girardin de se convaincre également, rien qu'avec l'aide de l'Almanach de Gotha, que la première section de la Chancellerie particulière de Sa Majesté, inscrite en marge du document tel que l'a reproduit "La France," a pour spécialité l'assistance des vieux employés de l'Etat, ce qui n'est pas précisément du domaine des Traités Diplomatiques.

Si ce nouveau déboire avait du moins pour résultat de rendre les écrivains Français plus disposés à se renseigner exactement sur les choses et les hommes des pays étrangers dont il parle, la leçon ne serait pas trop chèrement payée au prix de 10,000 fr.!

No. 20.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 446.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 26, 1876.

THE proclamation by the Servian army of Prince Milan Obrenovich as King of Servia has taken the Imperial Government by surprize, and is strongly condemned not only in the official circles, but generally by the Russian press.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a series of articles reproduced by the "Agence Russe" disapproving the act of the Servian army.

I am informed that the Emperor Alexander wrote on the margin of the telegram conveying the intelligence the following words: "C'est une farce qu'on nous joue."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Extract from "Agence Russe."

LA nouvelle, aujourd'hui démentie, de la proclamation du Prince Milan comme Roi de Serbie, inspire aux journaux Russes les réflexions suivantes:

Le "Golos" le condamne dans les termes suivants:—

"La démonstration politico-militaire du 16 Septembre à Aléxinatz produira, si elle vient à se confirmer, une pénible impression. Il faut avoir traversé de cruelles épreuves et croire sa position désespérée pour se résoudre à recourir à de pareils moyens. On a peine à admettre que le peuple Serbe consacre dans cette circonstance l'acte de l'armée, que la Skouptchtina y donne sa sanction, enfin que le Prince Milan lui-même l'accepte. S'est-on bien rendu compte à Aléxinatz de la gravité de cette démonstration; en a-t-on mesuré toutes les conséquences possibles? Nous n'avions pas entendu dire jusqu'à présent que la dictature militaire gouvernât en Serbie et que l'armée fût autorisée à se mêler des questions politiques. Même en reconnaissant les immenses services rendus par les troupes Serbes dans la guerre actuelle, il faut néanmoins reconnaître qu'elles n'ont pas encore atteint le but poursuivi qui est la délivrance de la patrie, nous ne pensons pas qu'il suffise d'une démonstration politique pour l'accomplir. . . . Les amis sincères de la Serbe, en recherchant les motifs du 'pronunciamento' d'Aléxinatz, ne voudront y voir que l'intention de protester contre les prétentions insolentes de la Turquie et d'affirmer le droit du peuple Serbe à nommer son Prince. Même dans ce sens la démonstration militaire Serbe aurait encore pour effet de compliquer une situation déjà assez tendue, car elle équivaut à la proclamation de l'indépendance complète de la Serbie en dehors de l'action des Puissances, éventualité qui ne paraît pas entrer dans les vues des Cabinets, dont l'entente a pour objet le règlement des affaires en Orient. Il y a peu de jours, la Serbie avait spontanément déclaré vouloir conserver le *status quo ante bellum*. Ne serait-ce pas l'obstination du Gouvernement Ottoman à réclamer l'amoindrissement de l'autonomie Serbe qui a poussé à la mesure extrême en question? Que la Porte médite donc les

complications que peut engendrer son manque de conciliation. Elles sont de nature à entraver la tâche de pacification entreprise par les Puissances et doivent nécessairement aggraver sa responsabilité; c'est par conséquent contre elle que le ressentiment de l'Europe s'exercerait inévitablement en cas d'insuccès. Il n'y a plus pour elle de temps à perdre en vaines résistances aux demandes de l'Europe, lesquelles peuvent facilement se transformer en injonctions suivies de faits matériels; car si la Turquie persistait dans son aveuglement, elle ne saurait éviter longtemps encore l'occupation des provinces Chrétiennes par les Puissances auxquelles l'Europe aurait confié l'exécution de ses volontés. Cette éventualité n'est pas admise seulement en Russie; un télégramme de Berlin informe que les conditions extravagantes de la Porte y ont été considérées comme un défi jeté à l'Europe, défi qui délie celle-ci de tous les égards dont la diplomatie a usé jusqu'ici envers elle. En résumé, nous estimons que la démonstration militaire d'Aléxinatz aura été tout au moins inopportune, puisque d'aucune façon elle ne pouvait exercer de l'influence sur les dispositions des Puissances en faveur de la Serbie; elle aura simplement fait surgir une équivoque; aussi, sommes-nous convaincus que des plus amples informations ne tarderont pas à la consigner parmi les faits non-avenus."

La "Gazette (Russe) de St. Pétersbourg" se prononce ainsi:—

"Telle est la réponse de la Serbie aux prétentions exorbitantes de la Porte. Si l'on en croit les rumeurs, la proclamation d'Aléxinatz se serait produite à la suite d'un revirement très-favorable dans la situation des armées Serbes. Les troupes Turques sont, comme on sait, entourées et ne tarderont pas à être réduites à capituler. Il ne saurait plus être question de paix. La Porte ayant rejeté le *status quo ante bellum* pour la Serbie, celle-ci ne s'en contente plus et prétend s'affranchir de tout lien de vassalité. La guerre Serbo-Turque entre, paraît-il, dans une phase nouvelle. Quel sera l'accueil de l'Europe à la manifestation Serbe? Espérons qu'il ne sera pas de nature à troubler l'accord des Puissances à Constantinople."

La "Gazette de la Bourse" dit de son côté:—

"Il faut considérer cette proclamation comme une réponse aux demandes présomptueuses et inadmissibles de la Turquie. Cet acte de l'armée Serbe, du peuple Serbe pourrions-nous dire, puisque c'est la nation toute entière en armes qui l'a affirmé, est d'une grande portée s'il s'appuie sur un avantage décisif dans la position des troupes vis-à-vis de l'ennemi; et qu'il ait été inspiré du dehors. Autrement, on devrait craindre que le titre de Roi de Serbie ne sert à troubler l'entente des Puissances, si indispensable pour assurer l'amélioration du sort des malheureux Chrétiens d'Orient."

Le "Nouveau Temps" se place à un tout autre point de vue:—

"Evidemment, dit-il, cet acte d'indépendance et de dignité va soulever une tempête parmi les diplomates et dans les rangs de la presse Turcophile. L'Europe Chrétienne ne s'est pas assez indignée de voir la Porte prétendre qu'un prince Chrétien, qui s'est dévoué à la défense de la civilisation contre la barbarie, de la Chrétienneté outragée contre les hordes Musulmanes, se rendit à Constantinople pieds nus pour solliciter sa grâce. Elle trouvera peut-être étonnante et déplacée cette démonstration de vigueur de la part d'un petit peuple d'un million et demi d'habitants contre un Empire de trente millions. Il lui suffira cependant de voir dans quel état les armées Serbes, animées de l'idée sainte de l'indépendance, ont réduit ces hordes Musulmanes, simplement avides de carnage. Il n'était pas permis d'insulter à l'honneur du peuple Serbe par des propositions aussi humiliantes; après que ce petit peuple avait accompli d'aussi grands prodiges d'héroïsme, la Porte a osé prétendre resserrer plus étroitement encore les chaînes odieuses qui l'enlaçaient. Il a voulu les trancher d'un coup pour se placer à la tête des revendications des peuples opprimés des Balkans."

En résumant, ces articles nous n'avons voulu que donner une idée de l'impression produite sur l'opinion Russe par la proclamation militaire Serbe annoncée par le télégraphe. On a vu que la plupart des organes, ceux-là surtout qui ne se laissent pas entraîner au delà de justes limites par les surexcitations nationales, l'ont judicieusement condamnée, comme il l'a été d'ailleurs par le Gouvernement Serbe lui-même, ce qui, comme le dit très bien le "Golos," la range désormais parmi les faits non-avenus.

No. 21.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 451.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 27, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this afternoon at 5 P.M. your Lordship's telegram *en clair* of this date, stating that Sir A. Kemball had reported that the Servians had recommenced hostilities.

I received at the same time your Lordship's telegram in cypher from Mr. Consul-General White stating that Prince Milan had refused to send orders to the Servian Commanders for the prolongation of the suspension of hostilities.

I accordingly wrote immediately a private note to M. de Giers, of which I annex a copy, inclosing the telegram from Sir A. Kemball, informing him of the refusal of Prince Milan, and requesting him to telegraph the facts as reported to Prince Gortchakow, and to beg His Highness to telegraph urgently to Prince Milan to engage him to send orders to the Servian Commander to remain on the defensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—Since addressing this despatch to your Lordship I have received a note in reply to mine from M. de Giers, a copy of which I beg to inclose.

A. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

Mon cher Sénateur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

JE m'empresse de mettre sous les yeux de votre Excellence le ci-joint télégramme qui rapporte le renouvellement des hostilités par les Serbes.

Je viens d'apprendre également que le Prince Milan a refusé d'envoyer les ordres au Commandant Serbe de rester sur le défensif.

Je vous prie d'informer le Chancelier de ces faits, et de demander à Son Altesse de télégraphier au Prince Milan, l'invitant instamment à envoyer les ordres au Commandant-en-chef Serbe de maintenir le défensif, et de ne pas recommencer les hostilités.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

JE ne manquerai pas de communiquer par le télégraphe au Chancelier le contenu du télégramme que votre Excellence me transmet sur le renouvellement des hostilités par les Serbes et que j'ai l'honneur de lui restituer ci-près.

Jusqu'à présent aucune information à ce sujet nous est parvenue ici, par contre nous avons les plaintes des Serbes sur la non-observation de la suspension d'armes par les Turcs, et sur le mouvement de leurs troupes vers la Imura (?) Klissoura (?). Espérons que bientôt ces petits détails n'auront plus aucun intérêt.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 22.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 452.)

My Lord; *St. Petersburgh, September* 27, 1876.

THE violence of the language of the Russian press on Eastern affairs, of late chiefly directed against England and Austria, has engaged the attention of the Imperial Govern-

ment, and has led to an article of caution (of which I have the honour to annex a copy) being inserted in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has produced the desired effect.

There has been for some time past a polemic going on between several organs of the Russian and German press, denoting no friendly feeling on the part of either.

I have the honour to inclose articles from the "Agence Russe" in proof of the discordant feeling between the press of the two countries, and contrasting it with the attitude and feeling of the two Governments. The "Agence Russe" further states that this polemic, which was as inopportune as dangerous, has been happily brought to an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{August}}{\text{September}}$ $\frac{29}{10}$, 1876.

LES JOURNAUX RUSSES.—Notre presse s'occupe assez peu depuis quelque temps de questions intérieures; la politique extérieure, ou, pour parler plus correctement, les affaires d'Orient, constituent sa préoccupation presque exclusive. Elle suit en cela, on ne saurait le contester, l'opinion publique, dont les pulsations ont rarement trahi une pareille harmonie; tout au moins nous faudrait-il remonter à l'année 1863 pour constater une unanimité de cette force et encore y eut-il alors des opposants, tandis qu'il n'y en a pas trace aujourd'hui.

La lutte héroïque des Slaves du Sud, les souffrances des populations Chrétiennes soumises aux iniquités du fanatisme Turc, n'expliquent que trop cette vivacité du sentiment que nous venons de rappeler, cette unanimité d'élan en faveur de co-religionnaires opprimés ou engagés dans une lutte où se joue leur existence, non-seulement nationale et politique, mais encore matérielle.

Nous ne saurions donc nous étonner si la presse, entraînée par ce mouvement, se laisse aller au courant et porte ainsi à l'étranger les traces de l'agitation qui s'est emparée de notre société depuis l'explosion de la guerre en Serbie. Nous nous expliquons moins l'attitude de quelques-uns de nos confrères qui vont jusqu'à s'attaquer à des nations amies, à des Gouvernements alliés, par la seule raison que l'on ne rencontre pas chez eux, ou que l'on croit ne pas y rencontrer, à l'égard de la cause des Chrétiens d'Orient, des sympathies aussi ardentes que celles dont on est animé soi-même. Il y a là un écart regrettable, nous dirions l'abus, conscient ou non, d'un sentiment généreux et respectable en soi, mais qui tourne à l'intolérance dès qu'on l'exagère. De pareilles exagérations ne font honneur ni au jugement ni à la sagacité politique de certains de nos journaux, en ce qu'elles doivent nuire à la cause même qu'on désire servir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LA PRESSE ALLEMANDE ET LA PRESSE RUSSE.—Nous avons relevé l'autre jour, et nous en réjouissant, le contraste qui existe entre l'attitude du Gouvernement Allemand et de l'opinion qui compte en Allemagne et celle de quelques journaux, organes de partis ou de calculs privés. Les journaux Russes, il faut leur rendre cette justice, ont su faire, eux aussi cette différence, et mettre fin à une polémique aussi inopportune que dangereuse. Voici, par exemple, comment le "Goloss" s'exprime à ce sujet:—

"On se plaint en Allemagne du ton acerbe de notre presse. Nous devons dire en toute justice que le reproche serait plus justement appliqué au journalisme Allemand dans sa polémique à notre égard. Nous ne nous poserons certainement pas en défenseurs des violences de langage commises par quelques uns de nos organes; cependant la vérité nous fait un devoir de déclarer que ce sont certains journaux Allemands qui les ont provoqués par leur parti pris d'hostilité contre notre pays. Les journaux en question paraissaient s'être tracé pour ligne de conduite de dénigrer, de dénaturer avec sarcasme les convictions les plus chères du peuple Russe. Après de nombreuses attaques dirigées contre notre sentiment national, est-il étonnant que quelques uns de nos journaux aient perdu leur sang froid? Il faut bien convenir que ce sont les publicistes Russophobes de

l'Allemagne qui ont mis à bout de patience certains de nos collègues. Les débâts se sont envenimés davantage au fur et à mesure que les événements semblaient vouloir donner le succès à une cause qui a nos sympathies séculaires. N'était-il pas profondément blessant de voir avec quelle désinvolture les politiciens Allemands disposaient des destinées des populations Chrétiennes de l'Orient, pour les cas où elles seraient vaincues? et avec quelle colère ils envisageaient la possibilité de victoires qui pourraient les sortir du joug sous lequel la coupable indifférence publique les maintient depuis si longtemps. Voyant que de quelque côté que ce prononçat le sort, les Chrétiens étaient condamnés dans l'esprit de ces esprits exclusifs, il n'est pas étonnant que plusieurs de nos confrères aient laissé percer leur ressentiment. Il faut avouer aussi qu'il règne dans ces journaux une malveillance obstinée à notre égard, qui défie la patience la plus contenue. Il faudrait, pour que la polémique rentrât dans les limites courtoises qu'elle ne devrait jamais franchir, que nos voisins fissent preuve à notre égard de plus de justice et d'impartialité."

La "Gazette de Moscou" analyse de son côté les articles des divers organes de la presse Allemande qui sont les plus hostiles à la Russie et fait ressortir que les ennemis des Chrétiens d'Orient sont justement ceux qui en son temps ont le mieux travaillé contre l'unité Allemande. La "Gazette" signale avec satisfaction la différence existant entre ces journaux et ceux qui passent pour refléter la pensée du Gouvernement. Elle relève notamment l'attitude hostile de la "Gazette d'Augsburg" et termine en disant: "Nous sommes heureux de constater dans la presse officieuse, l'existence des meilleurs rapports entre l'Allemagne et la Russie. Aussi, est-il permis d'espérer que cet accord se manifestera également dans les conseils qui prononceront sur le sort des Chrétiens d'Orient."

La "Gazette (Russe) de St. Pétersburg" dit de son côté: "'L'Allgemeine Zeitung' a publié un nouvel et long article sous le titre, 'Les menaces Russes,' dans lequel elle donne un libre cours à ses antipathies contre la Russie. Il n'est pas d'insinuations malveillantes auxquelles l'auteur de l'article ne se livre à notre égard à propos du grand mouvement d'opinion qui se produit chez nous en faveur des Chrétiens d'Orient. Il va jusqu'à désirer que, fut-ce même par la violence, on fût parvenu à comprimer en Russie les nobles manifestations qui ont enfin attiré l'attention du monde civilisé sur les horribles massacres d'Orient. Il nous aurait voulu résignés ou indifférents et nous accuse de bisées ambitieuses, cherchant ainsi à donner le change sur la sincérité de notre émotion et à nous imputer des intentions provocatrices, ce qui fournit l'occasion à cette honorable feuille de nous faire des menaces. D'autres journaux Allemands marchent dans la même voie et cherchent de toutes façons à semer la discorde entre la Russie et l'Allemagne. Ils n'y réussiront pas, pas plus qu'ils ne parviendront à nous faire sortir de notre modération et à égarer au dehors l'opinion pour laquelle il n'y a plus rien de caché dans notre politique orientale. Nous ne rendons pas le Gouvernement solidaire de ces attaques systématiques. Elles ne nous émeuvent d'ailleurs d'autant moins que les événements et l'évidence des choses qui ont amené les Représentants des Puissances à se placer par rapport aux destinées des Chrétiens d'Orient au même point de vue que la Russie, nous justifient suffisamment."

No. 23.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 159. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 27, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 151, Political, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying note, received subsequently from the Servian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le 22 Septembre, 1876.*

AYANT précédemment appelé votre attention sur la manière dont l'armée Turque respecte l'armistice, je crois devoir vous signaler encore les faits suivants:—

Mardi dernier, 19 courant, les Turcs ont attaqué un détachement de l'armée de l'Ibar à Dikava, et un autre détachement, qui se trouve campé à Yagochnitza, a été assailli hier 21 courant: les deux attaques des Turcs ont été repoussées.

En outre, le Colonel Uzum Mircovitch, Commandant du Corps de la Drina, mande que des troupes Turques venant de Bellina ont pénétré hier 21 courant, dans l'île Serbe de Bouyouklin, et s'y sont retranchées sans que les troupes Serbes aient cru devoir faire résistance à cause de l'armistice. Celui-ci datant du 16 Septembre, ces deux derniers mouvements offensifs ont eu lieu par conséquent cinq jours après sa déclaration.

En portant ces faits à votre connaissance, je saisis, &c.,

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

No. 24.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 160. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to myself and to my Italian colleague, Count Joannini, by M. Ristitch, giving the reasons why the Servian Government declines issuing orders to their Commanders similar to those sent by the Porte, and whilst willing to accept an armistice, rejects this sort of arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le 26 Septembre, 1876.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de vous informer à plusieurs reprises dans les entretiens que j'ai eu avec vous que la suspension des hostilités dans la forme que la Sublime Porte lui a donnée n'était pas praticable, vu qu'une ligne de démarcation et une zone neutre n'ont pas été déterminées, et que cette circonstance présentait des inconvénients particuliers sur le théâtre de la guerre, surtout dans la vallée de la Morava où les deux armées en présence se trouvent à une demi-portée de fusil l'une de l'autre.

J'ai eu aussi l'honneur de vous notifier à la date des 6, 7, et 10 Septembre (v.s.), que l'armée Turque n'a cessé de violer sur tous les points la trêve consentie des deux parts; et que par conséquent il serait désirable de remplacer cette suspension d'armes illusoire par un armistice réel conclu dans les formes usitées en pareil cas.

A la suite de mes notifications, vous avez eu la bonté, M. l'Agent, de porter à la connaissance de votre haut Gouvernement le désire exprimé par le Gouvernement Princier de voir cette situation précaire faire place à un armistice en règle. Le Gouvernement Princier regrette que la Porte n'ait pas cru devoir prendre en considération les inconvénients qui sans doute lui ont été signalés, et qu'elle se soit bornée, suivant la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire, à prolonger pour une semaine encore sur le théâtre de la guerre un état de choses peu apte à prévenir les collisions entre les deux armées et une effusion de sang inutile.

Mu par les considérations que je viens de vous exposer, je prends la liberté de vous prier, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien faire connaître à qui de droit que le Gouvernement Princier regrette de ne pouvoir donner des ordres pour prolonger une situation démontrée par l'expérience comme impraticable et qui a pris fin le $\frac{13}{25}$ du mois courant, tout en appelant de tous ses vœux la conclusion d'un armistice en règle revêtu des conditions voulues et d'une durée suffisante pour conduire au but qu'on se propose d'atteindre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) RISTITCH.

No. 25.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 418.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September 27, 1876.*

SINCE Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Macdonell, informed your Lordship by last messenger that the German Government continued to give their full and cordial support to the policy of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople, I have not, in conversation with the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, obtained any information which could add to that already possessed by your Lordship.

The Emperor, as well as the Royal Family, are absent, attending manœuvres, and the Chancellor does not intend to return to Berlin before the end of October.

The attitude of the German Government in regard to Turkey is reserved and expectant, as it has been from the outset; and in regard to England, Prince Bismarck is ready to support the efforts of Her Majesty's Government in the general interest to peace and progress.

The policy of England, as far as the maintenance of the integrity of the Turkish Empire is concerned, does not meet with much sympathy in Germany, and more importance is attached to the future welfare of the Christian subjects of the Sultan than of the rights and privileges of the House of Othman in Europe, and if it be true that Austria and Russia agreed in secret Conference at Reichstadt to protect the Christian against the Turk by force of arms, if necessary, public opinion here will certainly approve and support the policy of the northern allies of Germany.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 26.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre, 1876.*

AINSI que je vous en ai informé par mes précédents télégrammes, les Serbes ont repris les hostilités. Il résulte d'un récent télégramme du Serdar-Ekrem que les Serbes ont attaqué nos troupes sur toute la ligne devant Alexinatz. Le combat a duré 12 heures consécutives, et il a eu pour résultat final la défaite des Serbes, qui ont pris la fuite en laissant sur le champ de bataille un grand nombre de morts et de blessés. Abdi Pacha ajoute que les Serbes en demandant une suspension des hostilités n'avaient d'autre but que de concentrer sans dérangement toutes leurs forces disponibles à Alexinatz.

No. 27.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre, 1876.*

LE Gouvernement Serbe a informé les Agents des Puissances à Belgrade que les troupes Impériales auraient violé la suspension d'hostilités le 17 à Alexinatz et à Jaukova-Klissura, le 19 à Javor, et le 21 à Yavor et sur la Drina. Par cette communication, M. Ristich a voulu intervertir les rôles et rejeter la responsabilité sur nous. Ainsi que je vous en ai informé par mes télégrammes d'hier et des jours précédents, ce sont les Serbes qui ont repris leur attitude d'agression et ont attaqué les troupes Impériales sur toute la ligne. Je ne saurais donc ne pas protester formellement contre les assertions du Gouvernement Serbe.

No. 28.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Septembre, 1876.*

IL résulte de nouvelles Russes publiées dans les journaux que la Russie a envoyé au Caucase Miliutin, Ministre pour la Guerre, à l'effet de constater les diverses violations qui auraient été commises par les Turcs sur les frontières Asiatiques. Cette mission ne peut évidemment avoir pour objet que de cacher les préparatifs Russes du côté de l'Asie en faisant accroire à une violation du territoire faite par la Turquie et de justifier la Russie aux yeux de l'Europe en ce qui concerne l'affluence d'officiers, et de pouvoir, en cas que la Sublime Porte fît éclater ses justes plaintes, s'en défendre en récriminant contre le Gouvernement Impérial.

C'est une télégramme qui m'a été adressé par l'Ambassade Impériale à Vienne. En vous le communiquant, je m'empresse d'ajouter que jusqu'à présent il n'y a eu de notre part aucune violation de territoire.

No. 29.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Septembre, 1876.*

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre dans ses communications relativement aux réformes à accorder, insistant sur l'expression d'autonomie administrative, nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de faire remarquer que l'adoption de cette expression pour caractériser le nouveau régime à appliquer aux Provinces de l'Empire rencontre chez nous des obstacles insurmontables. Indépendamment de ce que cette expression présente de vague et d'indéfini pour nous, elle offre l'inconvénient très-sérieux de provoquer des analogies et des commentaires, qui, surtout dans ce moment-ci, alarment en général les esprits même les plus modérés et les plus conciliants. Le Gouvernement Impérial, s'inspirant des désirs généreux et éclairés de Sa Majesté, qui ont trouvé leur haute expression dans l'Hatt Impérial que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer, est préparé, en considération des circonstances actuelles, à élaborer un ensemble de réformes que je vous ferai connaître incessamment en détail. Lorsque l'ensemble de cette nouvelle mesure sera connu, nous sommes convaincus que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique reconnaîtra qu'il est de nature à fournir aux populations le contrôle désiré sur les employés du Gouvernement et à les garantir contre des actes d'autorité arbitraire. La pensée des Puissances se trouvera ainsi réalisée de fait, et elle aura reçu immédiatement les développements pratiques qu'elle comporte. Nous espérons que, dans son esprit de haute loyauté, son Excellence Lord Derby voudra tenir compte de l'empressement que le Gouvernement Impérial a mis à conformer son attitude et ses résolutions aux conseils amicaux qu'il a bien voulu nous faire parvenir. Lorsque l'accord existe sur le fond, nulle question de mots ne peut présenter de difficultés; et si les considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous exposer plus haut empêchent le Gouvernement Impérial de déclarer qu'il admettra comme principe de son administration provinciale l'autonomie locale, il n'hésite pas à affirmer que les nouvelles réformes qu'il donne à ses Provinces sont de nature à assurer dans la pratique aux populations les bienfaits et les avantages qu'on aurait pu sûrement en attendre. Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien s'exprimer dans ce sens à son Excellence Lord Derby, et de tâcher de convaincre sa Seigneurie qu'entre sa pensée et celle du Gouvernement Impérial il ne peut y avoir qu'une simple différence de mots qu'il nous est impossible d'accepter.

Les réformes decrétées par le Gouvernement Impérial seront notifiées officiellement aux Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices; et cette notification, en mettant ainsi les Puissances unies à même de constater la réalisation de leurs vœux, dispensera d'avoir recours à la formalité d'un Protocole dont les inconvénients sont trop évidents pour que j'aie besoin d'y insister.

No. 29 A.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

Vienna, October 1, 1876, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs:—

"Prince Nicolas is absent but is expected to-night.

"I shall have an audience of Princess this afternoon.

"Prince's Secretary tells me that his Highness considers himself bound not to separate his action from that of Servia; but that he is decidedly in favour of peace, and that the Principality in general is not opposed to it, on the understanding that they obtain territorial concessions.

"Great reliance is placed on the influence of Great Britain, which it is hoped will be exerted in this sense. Russian Agent urges continuation of war.

"I have been requested to ask whether Her Majesty's Government ever received Montenegrin Memorandum dated about May, and to beg an answer by telegraph."

No. 29 B.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

Therapia, October 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND Council was postponed, but will take place to-day, when the answer of the Porte will be decided on.

Some of the Ministers whom I saw last night said that the objection to the word "autonomy" is insuperable, as they cannot believe that, if it were intended to convey nothing more than is explained by your Lordship's definition, it would be so much insisted on by Russia.

They appear ready to agree to what is stated in the explanation, but not to commit themselves to an engagement of the extent of which they do not feel certain.

I have urged that, if they are decided to answer in this sense, they should, at any rate, attenuate the [grave?] results to be expected from it, consenting to formal armistice to give time for negotiations.

No. 30.

The Viceroy of India to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

Simla, October 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IMPORTANT meetings have been held by Mahommedans at Bombay and Peshawur expressive of sympathy with Turkey.

Bombay Mahommedans have drawn up a petition to the Queen thanking English Government for previous feeling, and requesting Her Majesty not to desert cause of Sultan.

Similar meetings about to be held in Calcutta.

No. 31.

Note Verbale communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 2.

61, Pall Mall, S.W.

AUJOURD'HUI un grand meeting d'environ 8,000 personnes a été tenu dans l'emplacement de Puyx, sous la présidence du Recteur de l'Université, qui, après avoir défini le but de la réunion, a donné successivement la parole aux Professeurs de l'Université, Papparigopoulo, Cohkinos, et Damalas. A la suite des discours prononcés M. Damalas a formulé les motions suivantes:—

1. Que le Gouvernement fasse aux Grandes Puissances les représentations nécessaires au sujet de l'injustice projetée à l'égard de nos frères en Turquie.

2. Que le Gouvernement avise aux mesures les plus actives pour organiser les forces militaires de terre et de mer du pays. Cette motion sera présentée au Gouvernement par une commission composée du Métropolitain, du Recteur, des Maires d'Athènes et du Pirée, et de M. Damalas, en qualité de secrétaire.

No. 32.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2, 2·50 P.M.)

Therapia, October 2, 1876, 12 noon.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed last night as follows:—'Turks have withdrawn during the night from the crescent they had won, which was again occupied by the enemy. All quiet to-day. Usual shells.'"

No. 33.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of the 1st, the Memorandum was received, and is published at page 160 of the Blue Book. Inform Monson.

No. 34.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2, 6·15 P.M.)

Paris, October 2, 1876, 3·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DUC DECAZES has news from Constantinople which makes him fear that the Porte may refuse the armistice and conditions of peace, or indefinitely postpone answering.

M. de Bülow has said to French Chargé d'Affaires that if the Porte refuses armistice, she must be left to her fate; that Germany will wash her hands of the whole affair.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Ambassador has read to me to-day a telegram from his Government, dated September 30, making proposal that a scheme of reforms for provinces shall be notified to the Powers in a note, so as to avoid use of expression "administrative autonomy," and form of Protocol.

I told him that it was useless to discuss the question, as terms proposed to the Porte had been settled by six Powers in concert, and could not now be discussed.

No. 36.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 613.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from his Government, dated the 30th ultimo, and stating that, as your Excellency, in your communications on the subject of the reforms to be granted to the disturbed provinces, had insisted on the expression "administrative autonomy," the Porte felt bound to observe that there were insurmountable obstacles to the use of that term as characterizing the new system of government to be introduced. Independently of the vague and indefinite nature of the words, they were open to the further objection that they provoked analogies and commentaries, which, especially at this moment, would cause general alarm in Turkey, even among those of the most moderate and conciliatory disposition.

The Turkish Government state that they are prepared, in consideration of the present state of affairs, to draw up a scheme of reform, which they feel convinced will be

admitted by the British Government to be calculated to afford to the population the desired control over the Government officials, and to guarantee them against arbitrary acts of authority.

The desire of the Powers will thus be practically carried into effect. The Porte hopes that Her Majesty's Government will recognize its readiness to comply with the friendly advice of England, and that, as there is an agreement in substance, no difficulty will be made about a difference of words.

The reforms decreed by the Turkish Government would be officially notified to the mediating Powers, and this notification, by informing the Powers of the realization of their wishes, would do away with the necessity for having recourse to the formality of a Protocol, the inconvenience of which, the telegram adds, are too evident to require mention.

Musurus Pasha went on to speak to me in the sense of this communication, but I told his Excellency that I thought it useless to discuss the subject further. The terms proposed to the Porte had been settled and agreed to by the six Powers in concert, and it was impossible now to attempt to modify them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 37.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 615.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.*

M. MARCO D. BALABANON and M. D. Zankoff, two Bulgarian gentlemen introduced to me by Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., called upon me at the Foreign Office this day and presented a memorial which they desired should be laid before the Queen, together with an explanatory memorandum. They at the same time said that they desired to express the thanks of the Bulgarian people for the sympathy which they had received from the British Government and nation.

I told them that I would lay the memorial and memorandum before Her Majesty, and that Her Majesty's Government would do all they could to assist the efforts of those who were taking relief to the distressed inhabitants of Bulgaria; Her Majesty's Government would also use their best efforts for the restoration of tranquillity in the Province, and for the prevention of the recurrence of such lamentable events as those which had recently occurred there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 38.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 610.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.*

BARON VON DER BRINCKEN informed me to-day that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had telegraphed on the 30th ultimo that, in consequence of disagreement among the Turkish Ministers, the assembly of the Council had been deferred till the next day.

The Ambassador had added that the British and Austrian Ambassadors had urged the acceptance of the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, but had received an unfavourable reply, and that it has been the general impression that the Great Council would reject the proposals upon the two points of autonomy and the armistice.

A second telegram from the Ambassador, dated yesterday, had, according to Baron von der Brincken, announced the further postponement of the meeting, and had stated that, though the proposals were still under the consideration of the Ministers, their rejection appeared to be certain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 39.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 2, 1876, 6 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me that a telegram from Copenhagen, stating that the King is postponing his departure until he obtains Crete and rectification of frontier, is without foundation.

He says that public opinion is much excited at no notice having been taken of Greek races in Turkey, that he cannot say how far present agitation may extend, and that the policy of England having changed, Greece must throw herself into arms of Russia.

No. 40.

Mr. Guarracino to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 23, 1876.*

HAVING served Her Majesty's Government in different capacities in Turkey for nearly thirty-three years, I venture to make a few remarks to your Lordship in reply to the violent attacks made against me of late by the correspondents of the "Daily News," Messrs. McGahan and Schuyler.

A sincere wish not to trouble your Lordship with purely personal matters has hitherto restrained me from addressing you on this subject, but as the attacks, far from abating, are becoming, if possible, more violent, and as, if left totally unanswered, they are of a nature to injure me, not only in the eyes of the public, but also in those of your Lordship, I think that, in common justice to myself, I should vindicate my character; and, as an old Consular servant of Her Majesty, I consider that any such vindication should be addressed to the Government I have had the honour of serving, rather than to the public press.

I am charged with being a notorious philo-Turk, with having habitually bullied the Bulgarians, while I was civil to the Turks; with having, while at Klissoura, in conjunction with Tossoun Bey, ordered the Mudir to have certain fortifications rebuilt, as there was another Commissioner coming to see the village; and, in a letter read by Sir Charles Dilke in England in public, written by one of the "Daily News" correspondents, I am styled as an undesirable character.

The best answer I can give to the first of the accusations is the following:—When at this capital in 1859 on leave of absence (being then Consul for Samsoun and Sinope), I was asked by Sir Henry Bulwer and Judge Hornby to take up, on the part of the Supreme Consular Court, a large number of British and Ionian cases which had accumulated in the Turkish Courts. These I disposed of in the course of seven months, so greatly to the satisfaction of the British community, that they addressed me a letter of thanks, which was published in the local papers at the time. I had, moreover, the honour of being mentioned on this occasion in a leading article of the "Times," which suggested that it would be advisable for Lord John Russell (then Foreign Secretary) to keep me permanently here as Dragoman, as I was the first English official employed on such duties who had dealt with the Turks in an independent spirit. Two or three years previously Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe had likewise given me a gratifying proof of his confidence by offering me the post of First Dragoman. I was unable to accept the offer, owing to important private engagements which I was under elsewhere. I have further had the satisfaction of being informed by Sir Henry Rawlinson that Lord Stratford stated to him that his Lordship considered me one of the best servants whom our Government had in this country.

Had I been considered such a strong philo-Turk by those who had a better opportunity of forming a judgment than the ill-informed correspondents of the "Daily News," entirely new as they are to this country, would my appointment to a post in which I was bound, to a considerable extent, to be brought into conflict with the Turkish authorities, have been desired?

Is it right to cry a man down in public for being a philo-Turk, because he thought it his duty to hear both sides of the stories respecting atrocities in Bulgaria? My Turkish sympathies are supposed to have been shown most strongly at Perustitza, where I "browbeat" the Bulgarians. The fact was that Mr. Baring and I had heard a story at Philippopoli to the effect that the inhabitants of Perustitza had fired upon some zaptiehs who were escorting a Bulgarian, sent by the authorities to find out what was going on there.

The object of Mr. Baring's mission being, not to get up a case against the Turks, but

* A similar telegram was sent to Constantinople.

really to inquire into and report impartially upon what had taken place, it was our bounden duty to endeavour to discover whether what we had heard was true or false. No doubt, however, the correspondents of the "Daily News" consider that any attempt to cross-examine Bulgarian peasants respecting their conduct generally is "browbeating and bullying."

As regards my being civil to the Turks, if this be a crime, I must plead guilty to it. I have had more experience of oriental nations, than either Mr. Schuyler, or Mr. McGahan have had, and I know far better than they do what little civilities must be practised in ordinary conversation with them. If Mr. McGahan, in spite of what I say, thinks that I was too courteous to Turks in general, let him ask Signor Takella, an Italian gentleman residing at Philippopoli, who accompanied Mr. Baring to Tartar-Bazardjik, what I said to the Turks of that place, who have the reputation of being the most fanatical in all Bulgaria.

I gave my opinion freely to Turks of all grades in Bulgaria, and continued doing so to those here, when questioned about events in that Province, however distasteful it must often have been to them to listen to it; but I consider that I should have committed a grave error, if I had acted towards them, in defiance of the laws of common courtesy. As a proof for your Lordship of my way of acting towards the Turks here I will state the following occurrence. A few days after my return to Constantinople, Midhat Pasha invited me on board the special steamer, which conveys the Ministers daily to the Porte, from their summer residences on the Bosphorus. During the trip, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Safvet Pasha, asked me to state before his colleagues, the conclusions I had come to after my tour with Mr. Baring. I replied that I could not better convey my views on the subject, than by reading to them, extract from a letter, which I had just written to a Turkish friend of mine; and I accordingly read out the paragraph (in French), copy of which I herewith inclose, nearly all the Ministers being present. I trust that if it does not go the lengths of the "Daily News" commissioners' ideas, it will by your Lordship not be found wanting in independence and plain speaking. I will add, that having met some Turkish high functionaries a few days afterwards, the roundness of my verbal remarks on the same subject elicited the exclamation (in Turkish) "upon my word, Mr. Guarracino, few persons would be so bold as to speak to us in the way you do."

The third charge I have mentioned as having been made against me, by the "Daily News" Commissioners, is, as your Lordship will perceive, far graver than the other, as it openly accuses me with conspiring to deceive Mr. Schuyler and his friend Mr. McGahan when Mr. Baring and I left Philippopoli, on the 23rd July, to visit Klissoura; we had neither of us, at any rate I had not, the slightest idea that Mr. Schuyler intended visiting Bulgaria, and we had never even heard of the existence of McGahan. The first we heard of these gentlemen was on our return from Klissoura to Philippopoli on the 26th of July. As therefore I had never heard of the "American Commission," why should I give orders for the rebuilding of walls, for the purpose of hoodwinking it. Again, supposing I had heard of Mr. Schuyler's projected visit, is it likely that I should have committed so intensely foolish an act as the one ascribed to me? For how could I suppose that all the villagers were going to keep the secret?

On the 7th of August, Mr. Schuyler and McGahan called on Mr. Baring and in my presence told him the above story; we naturally laughed at it, and treated it as it deserved to be. If Mr. McGahan disbelieved our assertion, why did he not say that he intended nearly a fortnight afterwards writing a letter in which he would make no mention of the denial of the truth of his story?

The inhabitants of Klissoura, we were told, had erected some kind of fortifications around their village, and had defended themselves behind them for some time. Tossoun Bey said: The Mudir took us to see a portion of these fortifications, which consisted of a stone wall, built without any mortar, about four feet high, with loop-holes in it. Tossoun Bey told me that some other stronger walls had been built, and that the villagers had even placed on them some wooden cannon, made on the spot, with the trunks of cherry trees bound round with iron hooping, but that they must have knocked them down later. I saw two of these cannon, which were sent to Constantinople. Whether Tossoun Bey desired the Mudir to make the villagers rebuild the walls or not I cannot say, but I solemnly assert that he received no suggestion from me on the subject.

During the whole period of my services as Consul at Samsoun, in Crete, and as First Vice Consul here, I am happy to say that I have never earned a word of disapproval either from Her Majesty's Government, or from Her Majesty's Ambassador. On my retirement in 1872 I was, moreover, allowed a "special addition of 100*l.* per annum" to my pension, "in consideration of my meritorious services in 1868, which resulted in the reformation of the abuses connected with the Seamen's Hospital attached to the Consulate,

and in a large saving of public expenditure," the yearly amount thus saved being upwards of 1,500*l.*

While in charge of the Consulate-General here I also put an end to more than one abuse in the Treasury Department of the Court and Consulate. Had those abuses been made public at the time, they would have led to disclosures and scandal prejudicial in every way to the character of the Chiefs of the Judicial Department at the time without producing any other advantage to the public service. I therefore did not report them officially, nor try to make a personal merit of the discovery, although I mentioned the matter privately to the Ambassador.

I confess to your Lordship that I now regret very much not having acted otherwise, because a more worldly-wise proceeding on my part would have spared me the persecution and annoyances to which I was subjected during the period of my three years' service under the late Sir Philip Francis. Those persecutions temporarily deprived me of health, and drove me to ask to leave the Consular service, and I have valid grounds for ascribing to the same source the imputations against my character thrown out by the "Daily News" correspondents. I believe that Sir Henry Elliot would support me in this latter statement, although I have not as yet spoken to his Excellency on the subject.

I trust that your Lordship will make allowances for one who writes under a keen sense of wrong, and who knows that he has done his duty to the best of his ability, and that you will pardon not only the length of this communication, but also a certain warmth of expression which may perhaps characterize it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED^K. GUARRACINO.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from a Letter written by Mr. F. Guarracino to a Turkish friend, on 27th August, and read by Mr. Guarracino to Safvet Pasha, in presence of nearly all his colleagues, on board the Turkish Minister's steamer, on 31st August, 1876.

AVEC mon expérience dans les événements politiques de ce pays du passé, et ma connaissance du caractère des Musulmans parmi lesquels j'ai vécu si longtemps en Asie, j'espérais, en allant en Bulgarie, découvrir que les rapports dans les journaux, apropos des atrocités commis en Bulgarie, étaient des inventions malveillantes des ennemis de la Turquie; mais malheureusement cette satisfaction ne m'a pas été accordée, et quoiqu'il y a eu beaucoup de mensonges publiés, énormément d'exaggérations sur les incidents survenus, et même inversion de la cause primitive de l'insurrection Bulgare– avec tout cela, dis-je, démasqué et nié--les vérités impossibles à excuser, donnent gain de cause à ces ennemis, placent les amis de la Turquie dans une fausse position, et je crains, resteront pour longtemps une tâche très-difficile à effacer de notre histoire, à moins que le Gouvernement actuel ne prend en considération les représentations qui lui sont faites par l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre et quelques autres amis réels du pays. Ces représentations tendent à provoquer la punition des individus qui ont été les principaux auteurs des crimes commis dans les derniers événements, et qui par quelque inexplicable cause ou intrigue, ont été décorés, et récompensés, au lieu d'être punis. Ces assertions paraissent incroyables dans l'époque où nous vivons; elles ne sont nonobstant malheureusement que trop vraies, et font beaucoup souffrir moralement les Musulmans honnêtes et réellement patriots en Bulgarie.

Je dois dire que ces distinctions malplacées ont été accordées pendant que Mahmoud Pacha et Hussein Avni Pacha étaient au pouvoir; mais cela ne devrait pas empêcher l'Administration actuelle de tâcher de réparer le mal fait. Il est à espérer que cela sera fait avant qu'il ne soit trop tard.

Le Grand Vizir a envoyé Blacque Bey et Ivancho Effendy, un Bulgare, pour faire un autre rapport sur les événements passés et l'état actuel de la Bulgarie. J'espère que ces messieurs se donneront la peine de parcourir la Province eux-mêmes, et qu'ils ne seront pas influencés dans la confection de leur Rapport. Edib Effendy a fait le plus grand tort possible à son Gouvernement en cachant la vérité, ou en tâchant de donner toute autre couleur que la réelle aux événements qui ont eu lieu; tandis que s'il avait dit la vérité ou rapporté ce qui s'est réellement passé en Bulgarie, depuis le commencement de l'insurrection jusqu'à l'époque de sa mission à Philippopoli et Tatar-Bazardjik, villes desquelles il n'est pas sorti, il aurait évité au Gouvernement actuel beaucoup d'embarras, aux Ministres la fausse position dans laquelle ils se trouvent, et j'ajouterais peut-être les mêmes inconvénients au Ministère et à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

No. 41.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 3.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 20 Septembre*, 1876.

JE m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-jointe, une copie du Rapport que le Dr. Alexandre Zoéros, Directeur du Service Sanitaire de l'Armée de Podgoritza, a présenté aux autorités militaires relativement aux horreurs et aux atrocités exercées par les Monténégrins sur nos soldats.

En me référant à ce sujet aux instructions contenues dans mon télégramme du 14 Septembre, je ne puis m'empêcher d'ajouter combien ces traitements inqualifiables, que les Monténégrins font subir à nos soldats, sont de nature à encourir le blâme de l'opinion publique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Report by Dr. Zoéros.

Excellence,

PARMI les blessés qui, à la suite du combat de Lundi, $\frac{2}{14}$ Août, sont entrés à l'hôpital central et aux ambulances que j'ai l'honneur de diriger, il y en a un certain nombre qui ont été horriblement mutilés par les Monténégrins. Ainsi, il y en a qui ont le nez coupé, d'autres le nez et les lèvres et d'autres le nez, les lèvres et l'une ou les deux oreilles, en dehors des autres blessures qu'ils portent sur les autres parties du corps.

Ayant le cœur plein d'horreur et d'indignation que tout homme civilisé ressentira certainement en présence de ces preuves d'extrême barbarie, je m'empresse de porter ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, en y joignant les noms des malheureux qui ont été mutilés le plus :—

Mehmed Yonour d'Angora, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 4e Caporal ;
Mehmed Ali, Bolo, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 8e Caporal ;
Mehmed Osman de Tchangura, 3e Chasseurs du 2e Corps, 2e Compagnie, 8e Caporal ;
Ali Caplan de Tiran, 3e Corps d'Armée, 1er Régiment, 4e Bataillon, 2e Compagnie, 6e Caporal ;
Osman Chahine de Croupitza, 3e Corps, 1er Régiment, 2e Bataillon, 5e Compagnie ;
Suleiman Mustapha d'Adana, 5e Corps, 5e Régiment, 2e Bataillon, 8e Compagnie, 4e Caporal ;
Ahmed Ali, Beyrouth, 5e Corps, 2e Régiment, 1er Bataillon (Rédif), 3e Compagnie, 5e Caporal ;
Guiritli Halil Ali de Hania, du Corps de Zeibeks ;
Taraboulouzlou Mehmed Ahmed, du Corps de Zeibeks ;
Suléiman Ali de Magnésie, du même Corps ;
Réchid Moussa de Bitlis, du même Corps.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.
Le Directeur du Service Sanitaire de l'Armée de Podgoritza, Lieutenant-Colonel.
(Signé) ALEXANDRE ZOEROS.

No. 42.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 345.)

My Lord, *Rome, September 30*, 1876.

THROUGH the civility of a colleague I have received this morning a copy of the Russian document which Signor Melegari read to me on the 28th instant, as reported in my despatch No. 343 of that date. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith, because I am not aware whether it has been communicated textually to your Lordship, and because I regret to see that my report of it was not entirely accurate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Text of Russian Proposal.

Le 26 Septembre, 1876.

L'EMPEREUR a envoyé à Vienne le Général Soumarakoff, qui est chargé de proposer dans le cas où la Turquie tergiverserait sur l'armistice, la paix à des conditions dont conviendraient toutes les Puissances, intervention militaire de l'Autriche en Bosnie, de la Russie en Bulgarie et entrée simultanée de toutes les escadres du Levant dans le Bosphore.

Ces mesures nous paraissent indispensables pour amener la Porte à la raison, empêcher la guerre et sauver les Chrétiens d'un massacre général.

No. 43.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 3.)

Monsieur,

PAR ma dépêche de la semaine passée je vous ai informé que la Porte a envoyé quarante-cinq familles de Circassiens à Volo.

Indépendamment de cet envoi, le Vice-Consul de Volo me mande, ainsi que je vous l'ai télégraphié hier, que le bateau à vapeur Français de la Compagnie Fraissinet, vient d'y débarquer des colons Circassiens, dont il n'a pas pu vérifier le nombre. En me donnant la nouvelle du premier envoi, le Consul de Larisse ajoute dans son rapport que tous ces Circassiens, y compris les enfants âgés de douze ans, sont armés de poignards et de fusils, et qu'il tient de la bouche des fonctionnaires Ottomans que la Porte est inébranlable dans son projet de colonisation.

Au moment où nous avons cessé de réclamer l'intervention généreuse des Grandes Puissances pour obtenir de la Porte l'engagement qu'elle n'enverrait pas de colons Circassiens dans les Provinces Grecques de l'Empire, et notamment en Epire, Thessalie et Macédoine, la Porte poursuit son plan de colonisation dans les contrées même voisines de la ligne frontière contrairement à la promesse formelle qu'elle nous a donné à cet égard.

Cette manière d'agir de la Porte n'a pas besoin de commentaires.

Elle révèle de sa part un parti pris de mettre son projet à exécution au mépris de ses propres engagements et des avis qui lui ont été donnés par les Cabinets Européens.

L'Europe, qui a été si profondément émue par les atrocités commises en Bulgarie, permettra-t-elle que les mêmes scènes se produisent dans les Provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman ?

La manière solennelle et unanime dont l'opinion publique en Europe a flétri les actes de cruauté inouie commis par ces sauvages en Bulgarie, nous est un sûr garant qu'on ne permettra pas qu'un nouveau champ soit ouvert à leurs déprédations.

Dès le début des complications actuelles de l'Orient, la Grèce a gardé vis-à-vis de la Porte une attitude mésurée qui lui a valu les souffrages de l'Europe.

Mais la conduite actuelle de la Porte, si elle y persiste, nous obligera de modifier cette ligne de conduite et d'aviser aux moyens que nous suggérera le soin de notre propre conservation.

En effet, nous ne saurions rester spectateurs impassibles d'une situation qui met en danger la sécurité de notre territoire, car il est notoire que les Circassiens, tribu essentiellement nomade, se transportent à de grandes distances en promenant partout le pillage et le brigandage.

D'autre côté, leur établissement dans les trois provinces précitées, constituant un danger permanent pour la vie et les biens de leurs habitants, ne saurait qu'entretenir dans les esprits en Grèce une agitation continuelle, à cause des liens multiples qui unissent les habitants des contrées sus-mentionnées avec ceux de la Grèce libre.

Toutes ces considérations, dont la gravité ne vous échappera pas, nous mettent dans la nécessité de réclamer de nouveau l'intervention efficace des Cabinets Européens, afin d'amener la Porte à renoncer à son plan de colonisation dans les Provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, et à nous donner des garanties contre le renouvellement de pareils actes qui ne pourraient qu'avoir les conséquences les plus funestes.

Veuillez donner communication de la présente à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et me rapporter le résultat de votre entretien.

No. 44.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Tunis, September 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 2nd instant, reporting the return of the Bey's Envoy from Constantinople, who had been sent by his Highness to congratulate the ex-Sultan Murad, I have the honour to state that General Rustem has again left for the capital to convey to his successor, Sultan Abdul Hamid, the Bey's loyalty and allegiance to his Throne.

General Rustem was also the bearer of 700,000 fr., being the first instalment of the proceeds of the public subscription which his Highness had authorized in aid of the Turkish armies.

Although the Arab tribes generally pay the taxes with reluctance, yet, so soon as it became known to them that the subscription was on behalf of the Sultan, they largely contributed to it—a circumstance which abundantly proves that the population of this Regency recognizes the Sultan as their true and only Sovereign, to whom they owe aid and allegiance. The subscription has taken the character of a plébiscite, and is looked upon as such with satisfaction by the members of the Tunisian Government.

The universal manifestation of this sentiment of allegiance is not viewed with pleasure by a few of the agents of the foreign Powers; and those who accused General Khaïreddin of French proclivities now accuse him of carrying out a purely Turkish policy with my co-operation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 45.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 169. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 26, 1876.*

I ASKED M. Durando yesterday to authorize me to report to Her Majesty's Government all that he had been good enough to tell me respecting his negotiations with the Prince of Montenegro; and M. Durando, having said that he should be glad that I should make confidential use of his conversations with me, I will now do my best to lay the substance of them before your Lordship.

Prince Nicholas appears to have made a very favourable impression upon M. Durando. He describes His Highness as a man of naturally impulsive temperament, but with the *naïveté* and frankness of his original character considerably modified by acquired caution and suspiciousness. He was taken aback by the straightforward manner in which M. Durando solicited him to converse freely, and said that he was not accustomed to such an "undiplomatic" way of proceeding. M. Durando said to him that Italy, having no ulterior purposes to serve, it appeared to him that the best diplomacy between His Highness and himself would be mutual confidence and explicitness, and His Highness replied that the Great Powers, having always left him alone under the influence of Russia, it was very difficult for him to adopt on a sudden a confidential policy with foreign Agents. This diffidence on the part of the Prince was nevertheless dispelled at the second or third interview, and it appears that His Highness became at last frank enough, and exposed his views to M. Durando in the following sense:—

With regard to increase of territory, His Highness said that, as long as the Principality consisted of the rocks and stones of which it is at present composed, it would be impossible for him to inculcate among his people habits of industry and of agricultural employment. He did not want a large slice of the Herzegovina, which, for the most part, was not a whit more valuable than Montenegro. The plain of Nichsich, however, he did want, for it is fertile, and is an enclave in Montenegrin territory. He was more anxious for accessions of territory on the Albanian side—the Kutchi district, and the Ljeschcke Poljé, down to the River Moratscha—were points that he was urgent about. In the plain of the Moratscha the land is fertile, and it is a vital point for Montenegro to be able to raise cereal crops in greater abundance, and not to be dependent upon grain supplies from Austria.

With regard to a sea-port, His Highness said that if he could only get Spitza the concession would be almost valueless, as there is no port there, nor any possibility of making one; and the mountains debar access on that side into the interior. The whole of the Suturman district, with the port of Antivari, ought to be ceded to him, if the cession

was to be of any value. The Prince seemed, however, to be less anxious on this point; and the reason is that Austria, who is now endeavouring to supplant Russia, and to obtain the reversion of the influence which the latter Power has hitherto exercised over the Principality, is by no means desirous of giving Montenegro any other means of access to the sea than that afforded through her own ports in the Bocche di Cattaro. Count Andrassy has instructed Colonel Thömmel to remind the Prince that his subjects are not a seafaring people, and that a seaport is consequently not a necessity to them.

M. Durando, who had had confidential intimation of Austria's policy in this respect, very frankly told the Prince that in his opinion access to the sea was a point upon which His Highness should lay great stress. He entirely agreed that Spitza would be insufficient as a commercial port; and he argued with the Prince that his real policy was to make an effort now to change the existing conditions of his people and of the Principality. He should promote among his subjects habits of industry, and of independence of foreign subventions, and stimulate in them the desire to obtain and profit by the benefits of Western civilization. He should make an energetic effort to throw open the country to the easy access, and consequently to the direct influence, of the nations of Western Europe, and thus emancipate Montenegro effectually from that isolated position which he had rightly characterised as the greatest obstacle to the progress and advancement of the Principality.

M. Durando observed that the Prince seemed to be quite aware of the intentions and aims of Austria, and to feel no little discontent at the manner in which the latter was seeking to appropriate him. At the same time the winning demeanour and really honest and impartial character of Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Military Agent, had made a great impression upon the Prince, who felt also the extent of his obligation to the Colonel for his very efficient military advice.

M. Durando says that he himself has derived benefit by the visit he has made to Montenegro. At Ragusa, he remarks, we have been taught to look at Montenegro through Russian and Slav spectacles. We have thus seen them at a disadvantage, and "though I am far from denying that there is much to object to in their national character, their idleness for instance, their bellicose disposition, their contempt for the arts of peace, their predatory and, when provoked, their savage habits; there is still so much good in them that they cannot fail to interest." They show, he went on to say, a chivalrous devotion to their Prince—a respect for his opinion, and a loyal belief in his judgment and justice, which are sincerely touching. They are brave to a fault; and their vanity is tinged with an uncultivated *naïveté* which amuses and does not disgust. They are temperate and chaste, and uncomplaining under hardship, and so general is the eagerness to obtain the advantages of education that the children require no compulsion to attend the schools. They seem to contain the germs of a noble race, and to be far more capable of effecting the regeneration of the Slav populations by their example than any other of the kindred nationalities among which M. Durando has lived.

These are in brief that gentleman's views; and his long experience of these countries, his command of the language, and his knowledge of the traditions and habits of the Slavs, added to the indubitable calmness of his judgment, and the impartiality of his political opinions, render them, in my estimation, worthy of attentive consideration. In submitting them to your Lordship I am not unaware that the policy to which they tend is one that must, at this moment, meet with many obstacles. The natural, and perhaps justifiable aversion of the Porte to reward intrigue and rebellion (or what she regards as the latter) by cessions of territory to those whom she looks upon as her feudatories, the determination of Europe to support the principle of the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, the divergent views, the conflicting interests, and the inevitable jealousies of two neighbouring Empires, all these are no light hindrances to any such consummation as has been suggested above. Neither do I forget that I am probably exceeding the limits of my functions in giving my personal opinion upon a point of high policy. But, as your Lordship knows, the opinion that the interests of Turkey and of the tranquillity of Europe would best be served by an attempt to civilize the Montenegrins and to attract them to an industrial life, is one that has been forming and strengthening in my mind ever since I have been able to study the question from a less distant standpoint; and I cannot but think that the adoption of such a policy, and particularly its advocacy by Her Majesty's Government, would be a very decided step towards the attainment, if not of permanent peace, at any rate of a period of pacification and comparative repose which might continue to the end of this century.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 46.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, October 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le* $\frac{22 \text{ septembre}}{3 \text{ octobre}}$, 1876.

RECEVONS de notre Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople informations qui portent qu'en dépit des nouvelles démarches faites auprès de la Porte par les Représentants des six Puissances, les Turcs persistent dans le refus d'autonomie et de Protocole; malgré que l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre ait communiqué propositions de la Russie concernant coërcition matérielle. La Porte semblerait presque désireuse de pousser les choses à bout pour devoir céder à la pression des Puissances réunies ou pour provoquer un scission entre elles lorsque le moment d'une action décisive serait venu.

En attendant entre Musulmans et Chrétiens la situation reste très tendue.

No. 47.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1876, 7 P.M.

GENERAL Council has confirmed the reforms which are intended to apply to all the Provinces alike. The terms "Protocol" and "administrative autonomy" have been entirely rejected.

The Council has decided that the reforms in question shall be officially communicated by note to the Embassies.

No. 48.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 2, 1876; 10 P.M.

PREPARATIONS for a winter campaign made here under the impression that the hesitation of the Porte and the probability that the Emperor Alexander may come forward with new demands on Turkey render Russian war not unlikely.

Russia is supposed, with a view to this, to be aiming to secure the neutralization of Austria, and Greece is believed disposed to initiate some action.

No. 49.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 2, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

DUC DECAZES has received from the French Ambassador at Vienna a telegram dated 5 o'clock this evening, stating that Austrian answer to the letter of the Emperor of Russia had been sent; that he believes it contains an assent to proposal to occupying Turkish territory. The Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople reports the armistice and conditions of peace will probably be refused, as the Porte hopes for disunion among the Powers, and still believes that, in the last extremity, it will be defended by England.

No. 50.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1876, 5:10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government have learned with much regret that the Porte is likely to refuse the terms of peace which they have proposed. Warn the Porte that the alternative scheme of general reforms and a note is certain to be regarded as inadmissible, and that future terms of peace will undoubtedly be much more onerous, and will be pressed on the Porte very probably by force.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 51.

Safvet Pisha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 3 *Octobre*, 1876.

LE Monténégro ayant respecté la suspension d'armes dont le délai a expiré hier, le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé, sur la demande du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, de donner aux Commandants des divisions militaires en Monténégro l'ordre de rester sur la défensive jusqu'à nouvel avis.

No. 52.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 486.)

My Lord. *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador left with me to-day a telegram which he had received from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Russian Government had received from their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople information to the effect that, in spite of the late representations made to the Porte by the Representatives of the six Powers, they persisted in their refusal to accede to the expression "autonomy," and to the demand for a Protocol, notwithstanding that the English Ambassador had communicated to the Porte the proposal of Russia to make use of material coercion.

The telegram proceeded to state that it would seem as though the Porte were desirous to push matters to the extreme in order to appear forced to yield to the pressure of the combined Powers, or to provoke a rupture between them when the moment should arrive for decisive action.

Meanwhile the situation between Mussulmans and Christians was very critical.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 53.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 3, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

GENERAL SUMAROKOFF left this morning, but the strictest secrecy is still maintained respecting the answer which he carries to Livadia, and which he cannot deliver till Friday.

I am told he appears to be satisfied with the result of his mission, but he has not visited the foreign Ambassadors here.

To one of my colleagues, however, who met him last night accidentally, he said: "Do not speak of me but of us; union is strength."

No. 54.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1020. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 16, 1876.

IT appears that, at the Grand Council assembled on Tuesday to consider the answer to be returned to the proposal of the Powers to mediate, parties were so closely balanced as to make the result extremely doubtful.

One of the persons who took part in it assures me that the scale was only turned by the reading of my letter of the 8th instant to Safvet Pasha, and by the recognition of the necessity of relying upon the countenance of Her Majesty's Government.

My informant also mentioned two facts which deserve to be noted.

Of the six Christian members of the Council, two were for the rejection of the mediation and for the continuance of the war, while the most strenuous advocates of its acceptance were the Chief of one of the sects of Dervishes, and Namik Pasha, who is considered the representative of the strict Mussulmans.

* Repeated to Embassies.

To the influence of these unexpected allies, the satisfactory decision of the Council is unquestionably due.

It is also a significant fact that the military members of the Council, who may be supposed to have been better informed than others on the real position of things, sided with the moderate party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1036.)
Therapia, September 20, 1876.

My Lord,

MR. BLUNT has sent your Lordship a copy of his despatch to me of the 15th instant, reporting great insecurity in the Province of Monastir, and speaking of a rumour that sixty villages in the district of Prisrend had been pillaged by Albanian irregulars returning from the seat of war.

On the receipt of the telegram to which he refers, I spoke to Safvet Pasha, to whom the Austrian Ambassador had communicated the report of his Consul at Monastir mentioning the rumour alluded to by Mr. Blunt. Safvet Pasha promised to send a Commission to investigate the circumstances, and has now received a report that there is no foundation whatever for the rumour of the plunder of the sixty villages, and that the province is in an orderly condition. Count Zichy is about to call upon his Consul for an explanation of the discrepancy between his statement and that of the Commission.

The Vice-Consulate at Monastir having been one of those suppressed within the last few years by Her Majesty's Government, I am dependent for information respecting that province upon that which is supplied to me by Mr. Blunt from Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1037.)
Therapia, September 20, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison of the nomination of another Commission, armed with full powers from the Porte for the punishment of the persons guilty of the late excesses in Bulgaria.

It is composed of four Mussulman and four Christian members, among each of which there are men of courage and character not likely to lend themselves to an attempt to screen the guilty, or to conceal ascertained facts, although there are others in whom equal confidence cannot be felt.

The Porte professes anxiety that the truth respecting all that occurred in Bulgaria should be established, so as to leave no further doubt as to what really did occur, and as to the persons who are responsible for acts which are no longer denied.

It is asserted that Mr. Baring's Report contains inaccuracies, especially as regards the numbers of the former inhabitants of the villages, and consequently of those who, by a comparison of them with those now to be found, are assumed to have fallen victims.

Although Mr. Baring stated that he had given his figures merely as approximate estimates from the best sources that he could obtain, it is desirable that he should have the opportunity of verifying or correcting them by any evidence that the Commissioners may procure.

His presence will, moreover, so greatly strengthen the position of such of the Commissioners as may wish to resist attempts on the part of others to attenuate the facts or to shelter the guilty, that I have desired him to go again to Philippopolis, and put himself in communication with the Turkish Commissioners.

Another consideration which makes the presence of Mr. Baring at the same time as the Commissioners desirable is, that it may encourage witnesses to speak who would otherwise avoid doing so.

Nothing is more difficult than to induce the peasants of this country to give evidence which they think will be displeasing to the authorities, and many of them will deny all

cognizance of facts with which they are perfectly acquainted, even if speaking to a Turkish Commissioner intent upon remedying their grievances.

They fear persecution or annoyance from the petty officials or their Mussulman neighbours.

The same persons speaking to a foreigner, supposed to be collecting charges against the Turks, will frequently make statements for which sometimes there may perhaps be no foundation, but which, however true, cannot be accepted by the Commissioners as evidence unless they are repeated before them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Therapia, September 17, 1876.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the Porte has decided upon sending a fresh Commission into Bulgaria, with the view of instituting a closer inquiry into the circumstances connected with the Bulgarian atrocities.

The Commission, which is composed of four Turkish and as many Christian members, namely, Sadullah Bey, who is the President, Ismail Bey, Salim Effendi, Hamid Bey, Vassa Effendi, Blacque Bey, Ikiades Effendi, and Yovanchio Effendi, is at the same time invested with full powers to bring to trial, and apply the severest penalty of the law to such of the Bashi-Bazouk leaders and persons in authority as may have rendered themselves guilty of the cruelties and atrocities which have been laid to their charge.

The Commission includes men who, it is believed, will do their duty, not only in punishing the guilty, but also in recommending to the Porte all measures that would lead to the improvement of the position and security of the Christians in those parts. Ismail Bey, with whom I had a long conversation on the subject, is even for suggesting and carrying out measures that would ensure the protection of the Christians against the return of the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians from the seat of war. But in presence of the feeling and irritation which are reported to prevail among the Mussulman armed population of the district of Philippopoli, it is not easy to say how far the Commission would venture to act with firmness and severity, unless it be supported by the presence of an efficient military force.

Your Excellency is aware what the police force for the whole district of Philippopoli actually amounts to. It is barely sufficient to maintain public tranquillity, which would doubtless become still less satisfactory with the return of the Bashi-Bazouks. Desperate characters like Achmet Agha, Tossoun Bey, &c., are not, therefore, likely not to take advantage of the situation, in order to provide for their safety, when they hear of the object of the Commission starting to-morrow, which, for the present at least, would have to rely entirely on its moral prestige for the accomplishment of its task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1038.)
Therapia, September 20, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the Reports of Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert upon the state of the district of Philippopolis, the substance of which were communicated to the Porte, with a strong recommendation that sufficient regular troops and police for the protection of the inhabitants should at once be despatched there.

Mr. Dragoman Mariniteh's Report, herewith inclosed in copy, shows that no great disposition was shown to follow this recommendation; but I have since been told that a considerable number of troops have been sent to the district in question, although I cannot guarantee it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, September 16, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAM received too late for reply last night. Since my arrival here, reports of intended fresh massacres have been current, due to threats freely used by Mussulman population; but I have not information of any organized movement, and do not apprehend immediate danger. Mutessarif is an energetic man, alive to his responsibility, and says he can answer for peace being kept.

Turks, however, in state of great irritation, and, being all armed, an outbreak is possible.

Isolated outrages are frequent, and can only be stopped by considerable reinforcement of troops and police to disarm Turks. These troops should be natives of another province, not of Bulgaria.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, September 17, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR feels rather uneasy to-day at non-arrival of troops for which he applied. It is a custom amongst Turks of Philippopoli to fire pistols in streets on first night Ramazan, and he fears bloodshed might occur should he have none but half battalion Ponak troops now quartered here to depend on. He has telegraphed again to-day for reinforcements.

Ramazan begins Tuesday evening.

I heard this morning reports of further massacres being in preparation at Peshtera and Zagra, and informed Governor, who has taken measures to ascertain truth.

Reinforcements should be sent chiefs towns of Sandjak, besides Philippopoli. Nothing like general massacre to be feared, but cases bloodshed on small scale possible, unless more troops sent at once.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Report by Mr. Dragoman Mavrúdeh.

Le 19 *Septembre*, 1876.

(Extrait.)

JE me suis rendu au Seraskerat pour entretenir Redif Pacha au sujet des sentiments de la population Musulmane du district de Philippopoli et lui démontrer la nécessité d'envoyer immédiatement des troupes pour prévenir des désastres. Son Excellence étant absent, j'ai, suivant vos instructions, demandé à voir le Grand Vézir. Son Altesse, auquel j'ai exposé le but de ma visite, m'a dit qu'on l'avait déjà entretenu à ce sujet; mais que les nouvelles reçues par la Sublime Porte étaient satisfaisantes, et que pour le moment rien n'engageait le Gouvernement à expédier des troupes du côté de Philippopoli.

Midhat Pacha a confirmé le langage du Grand Vézir, en ajoutant que la Commission qui venait de partir pour la Bulgarie était munie de pleins pouvoirs, et que l'on devrait s'adresser à elle, qui certainement ne manquerait pas d'expédier des forces là où le besoin réel se ferait sentir.

Comme le Grand Vézir m'a engagé de voir aussi Saïvet Pacha, j'ai cru utile de communiquer les deux télégrammes du Consul de Philippopoli au Mustéchar, qui en parlera au Ministère pour la seconde fois.

No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1039.)

Therapia, September 30, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the 16th instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that the Austrian Ambassador had obtained a declaration from the Porte that orders had been sent to their military commanders to remain strictly on the defensive until the 25th instant.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of this declaration which Count Zichy was requested by Saïvet Pasha to communicate to his colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Memorandum of Verbal Communication made by Saïvet Pasha to Count Zichy, September 16, 1876.

LE Gouvernement Impérial pour devancer les vœux qui lui ont été exprimés a donné ordre confidentiel à tous les commandants militaires de se tenir strictement sur la défensive et de ne prendre aucune mesure offensive, autant qu'ils ne seront pas attaqués par les troupes ennemies, jusqu'au $\frac{13}{25}$ du mois courant.

No. 59.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1045.)

Therapia, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

A MOVEMENT of discontent, which may become important, has been exhibited by the Armenians.

They have forwarded a statement of their grievances to the Porte, and I understand that they intend also to lay it before the Sultan.

Their complaints refer chiefly to the exactions to which they are subjected by the tax-gatherers, and to the depredations which they suffer from the Kourds, against which the Government afford them no protection; and there can be no doubt that there are sufficient grounds for them.

Six months ago the Porte was warned that the license of the Kourds, which was equally oppressive to the Turks and to the Armenians, was daily getting greater, and it was urged to take measures to repress it; but the usual apathy was shown, and although a Commission was appointed to inquire into the matter, nothing has been done.

A feeling of natural and well-justified discontent against the Government was the consequence, and it has been assiduously encouraged from without.

An Armenian gentleman of high position, but quite unconnected with the Government, told me this afternoon that, although the Porte was primarily responsible for the existing discontent among his countrymen, there was no doubt whatever that the present agitation had been provoked by Russian intrigues.

He repeated what I had before been told, that although the great majority of the intelligent and educated Armenians are strongly opposed to Russia, it is not so as regards the masses, who merely know the grievances that they now suffer from, and believe that any change would be for the better.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1046.)

Therapia, September 25, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 520 of the 20th ultimo, regarding the apprehension felt by the Greek Government lest Circassian colonists might be permitted by the Porte to establish themselves in the provinces bordering on Greece, I have the honour to state that the Porte has declared that it has no intention of sending any Circassians to Thessaly.

A note conveying this assurance was lately sent to the Hellenic Minister here, who, however, wishes some of its expressions to be still more explicit, and Saïvet Pasha tells me that he is about to comply with the request of M. Coundouriotti, and make the communication as desired.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have been informed by the Greek Minister that it is true that some Circassians had been sent to Volo, which Safvet Pasha had attempted to explain as the consequence of an omission on his part to inform the Minister of Police of the engagement taken by the Porte.

I shall take the first opportunity of impressing upon his Excellency the necessity of not sending any of these people to the neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, but the Porte is placed in a position of difficulty in assigning locations to the Circassians who continue to arrive from Russia.

H. E.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1047.)
Therapia, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

ON Monday, a consultation of the most eminent men of the capital was held by order of the Sultan upon the state of his brother Murad.

Dr. Dickson, as well as the physicians of several other Embassies took part in it, and their unanimous opinion was that His Majesty's condition is hopeless, not only mentally, but physically.

He is stated to be well and kindly cared for, but he has to be continually watched, to guard against frequent attempts at suicide.

Symptoms of paralysis have exhibited themselves, and the doctors consider that, although he may linger, the ultimate result is certain, and not very far distant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1048. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I REGRET that it should be only in a confidential form that I feel authorized to forward to your Lordship the accompanying extract of a letter which I have received from the Head of the American College, through which so much of the information from Bulgaria is derived.

I am not aware to what suggestions he alludes as having been made to me by him at various times unless they were for the introduction of different reforms in the Administration, most of which I adopted, if that word can be properly applied to the frequent recommendation of them to the Porte, which was the utmost that I could do.

I would invite your Lordship's attention to the allusion in this letter to the scheme for the creation of various semi-independent provinces in European Turkey, for when such an ardent advocate of the Christian inhabitants, possessed of such exceptional acquaintance with their condition, states that "he very much doubts whether the people of these provinces are ready for autonomy, even if the Turks could be forced to grant it," his opinion deserves more weight than the theoretical arguments of those who have no such knowledge.

The development that he suggests of the Vilayet system, with the admission of the Christians into the army, or, what is still more essential, into the police force, and the general employment of Christian officials, offers probably the best solution of the difficulty that will be found.

The total abolition of the Sherist is not, I believe, attainable, but it is an elastic and undefined code, and the object of those who are now striving to re-organize the judicial system is to bring it into harmony with other codes without outraging Mahometan prejudice by its total rejection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Rev. Dr. Washburn to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.)
Geneva, September 10, 1876.

I HAVE been quite ill for several weeks or I should have written you before. I wish to assure you that I have had no part and no sympathy in the personal attacks which have been made upon you in connection with the Bulgarian question.

Although I, of course, think it would have been better if you had thought it wise to adopt the suggestions which I made to you at various times, still I felt then and feel now that you were not only actuated by a desire to carry out the policy of the English Government, but also by principles of humanity and a desire to put an end to the outrages going on in Bulgaria.

More than this, I think that the vigorous protests which you made at the time saved the greater part of the Touna Vilayet from the same fate as the Province of Philippopoli, and restrained the Turks in the latter province from greater atrocities.

My feeling then is that you are entitled to gratitude rather than abuse, and I have expressed this opinion and no other to those with whom I have spoken on the subject.

I do not forget that the Eastern question is just as difficult and complicated as it was before, and that it cannot probably be solved to the full satisfaction of anybody.

There seems to be a call for the erection of various semi-independent provinces in European Turkey.

I doubt very much whether the people of those provinces are ready for autonomy, even if the Turks could be forced to grant it.

Possibly, however, the Vilayet system might be so developed in European Turkey as to secure something like autonomy to each Vilayet without breaking up the Turkish Empire. This might include the drafting of Christians into the army and the police force; the abolition of the Sherist; the reform of taxation; the use of the Christian as well as the Turkish language, and the general employment of Christian officials.

I do not think that this idea of developing self-government within the Vilayet would shock the Turks, nor that it would lead to any oppression of the Turkish population where they are in the minority.

I would respectfully offer this suggestion for your consideration.

It appears to me that this unhappy war in Servia and Montenegro is a question by itself, and only indirectly connected with the other. I wish you all success in your efforts to bring back peace, and especially trust that yourself may not be crushed by the overwhelming burden of work which is coming upon you.

No. 63.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 1053.)
Therapia, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of further Reports received from Major-General Sir Arnold Kemball with regard to the movements of the hostile forces before Alexinatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, Monday, September 11, 1876.

Sir,

ON the night of the 7th instant I reported to your Excellency by subjoined telegram that this army had advanced two miles on the heights bordering the valley of the Morava to the west (or four miles beyond the scene of the engagement of Friday the 1st instant), thus bringing its left front opposite to the centre of the Servian position on the heights bordering the valley to the east. The intervening plain, well cultivated with grain and studded with oak plantations and copse, varies in width from three miles at Alexinatz to five miles or more at Doligrad. The river, after leaving Alexinatz, approaches in a very

tortuous course, with short reaches and deep bends; the base of the Turkish heights until, beyond the latitude of Deligrad, it turns westward to enter a defile of the mountains; whereas the Turkish heights partake of the character of parallel spurs, separated by deep ravines, which open into the valley of the Morava, the Servian heights consist of a lower continuous range, extending in one uninterrupted line, like a huge glacis, sloping gently to the plain from Alexinatz to Deligrad.

Alexinatz lies in a hollow at the southern extremity of this range, and is covered southwards by a spur from the mountains in the rear, which gradually decreases in height until it abuts upon the river. This spur, strongly fortified and intrenched, forms the southern part of the Servian position, before which Ahmed Ayoub Pasha's force was bivouacked some days, but which was found to be unassailable. Deligrad is a mere hamlet, situated at the base of the range in question, at its northern extremity, where its crest becomes more elevated, and unites itself with the mountains beyond. The Turkish heights northward, in like manner, gradually rise into the mountains, which, at this point, appear to close the valley of the Morava.

The Servian heights on the right side of the valley, more especially towards and beyond Deligrad, are fortified with batteries and intrenchments. On the left side of the valley, too, a strong Servian division has daily engaged the Turkish left flank from batteries of position, constructed on a parallel and more commanding range of heights to cover the defile of the Morava, as well as the road to Kruchewatz.

During the day these batteries are here and there supplemented by field-pieces pushed forward on prominent slopes and peaks in advance. The range across the ravine being, however, extreme, the Servian fire has not been sufficiently effective to dislodge the Turkish brigade there posted, or to inflict upon it serious loss.

The Turkish plan of operation, so far as it has transpired, is, on the one hand, to pierce the centre of the Alexinatz-Deligrad line, for which purpose a trestle-bridge has been constructed (by Bulgarian carpenters) over the extreme western bend of the river, out of range of the enemy's guns; and, on the other, to threaten simultaneously either flank of the enemy's position, viz., the "tête de pont" on his left, and the Servian division before referred to on this side of the valley. To this effect I have just addressed to your Excellency the subjoined telegram (B).

I am still unable to give your Excellency an idea of the strength of the Servian forces opposed to us. On this head the Turkish Intelligence Department is entirely without information, and the Servian infantry, except when actually engaged, is carefully kept out of sight.

Three Krupp siege guns only have as yet reached Nisch; three (or six) others are presently expected there.

Orders have been issued to the several division and brigade Commanders to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, with what effect I will in due course report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Thursday night.

Army has advanced yesterday two miles; now opposite centre Alexinatz-Deligrad line of defence. River winds much; propose trestle bridge extreme western bend to attack centre Servian position. Servians fire watering parties, reconnoitering parties; detachments occupy heights this side Morava River; occasionally attack our left front, left rear. Expected to arrive, six guns artillery of position, now approaching Nisch from Constantinople. Governor of Widdin has reported passage large numbers of Russian volunteers through Roumania and up Danube River join Servians.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Monday afternoon.

Trestle bridge completed; small body crossed yesterday supported by batteries at base heights; maintained position notwithstanding spirited attack by troops pushed forward in the advance Servian line of defence. Turks propose threaten *tête de pont* left flank enemy's position in front of Alexinatz, as well as Servian division on heights parallel our left flank to draw attention from real attack over trestle bridge on centre. Expected to occur to-morrow.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE little to add to the two subjoined telegrams (A and B, despatched as stated) announcing to your Excellency the enemy's attack against the brigades of Hafiz, Selami, and Adil Pashas on the left flank and rear of the Turkish position. The infantry was principally engaged at the latter point, and was supported on the enemy's side by three guns of position and two field pieces.

On the Turkish side the defence was supported by four batteries of field guns. At the former point, that is on the left flank (Hafiz Pasha), the action was confined, as before, to artillery fire. The attack commenced between 2 and 3 P.M. The surprise was complete, the enemy's infantry advancing at one point to within 300 yards of a Turkish battery. At sunset he had been repulsed everywhere with heavy loss, but he still held his position on the opposite heights separated by a deep ravine. As usual, no pursuit or counter attack was, or has been, attempted. The outposts on either side have since, here and there, come into collision.

Supposing the attacking force on this occasion to have been detached from the Alexinatz-Deligrad lines, it must have made a detour of a full day's march, first in a westerly and afterwards in a southerly direction, in order to attain its present position, and must have enjoyed the advantage of good roads for its guns. These heights are everywhere covered with oak plantations and copse. It is, however, argued from his movements that the enemy must within the last few days have received a considerable accession of strength. He is undoubtedly fortifying his position generally.

I can learn nothing definitive as to our future operations.

Of the expected Krupp siege guns none have as yet arrived here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, A.M.

Yesterday afternoon enemy attacked left flank left rear with infantry and artillery more seriously than usual, but gallantly repulsed. Withdrew sunset. Centre attack will probably be postponed.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Wednesday, P.M.

No movements of any kind yet, or in immediate prospect. Returns of killed and wounded, Monday 24th, 168. Enemy's losses probably treble. About ten battalions engaged on both sides. Enemy's artillery, five guns. Heavy, continuous rain thirty-two hours; now fine.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, Monday evening, September 18, 1876.

Sir,

THE subjoined telegrams (A, B, C, and D), the second and fourth replying respectively to telegrams received from your Excellency, will have acquainted you with the course of events in this quarter up to date.

I regret to state that in spite of the precautions taken to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks, these ruffians have twice succeeded in firing a village situated in the plain about a mile and a-half in front of our camp, of which a part only of the houses had been destroyed when the orders issued by the Porte at your Excellency's instance were received here. On each occasion a patrol of cavalry seized suspected individuals. The guilt of these could not be established, but their apprehension has served to publish far and wide the threat of death to any offender henceforward caught *flagranti delicto*.

Last night about 8 P.M. a false alarm given by Bashi-Bazouks of an attack by the

enemy led to repeated discharges of musketry on the part of our outposts and their supports in the direction of the trestle bridge, but the error was rectified as speedily as possible, and quiet immediately followed upon the order from head-quarters to "cease firing." I should not consider this incident worthy of mention but for the alert it created in the Servian lines, and the erroneous construction that may perhaps be put upon it.

Ahmed Ayoub Pasha was yesterday called into Nisch to see the Serdar Ekrem.

The pending armistice is understood by the Turks to extend to the 25th instant. The Servians after throwing shell occasionally into our camp up to four o'clock to-day, gave signs of recognizing the truce here, but the parlementaire sent by them about that hour could not be received owing to the officer in charge not being furnished with proper credentials; he intimated his intention to return to the outposts to-morrow duly accredited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, A.M.

Enemy still holds position opposite left rear, but quiet, has constructed three batteries for heavy guns on plain bearing on trestle bridge, and Turkish position in its rear beyond, compelling withdrawal battalion there bivouacked: no damage; Turks inactive; siege artillery not yet arrived from Nisch.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 8 P.M.

Communication by telegraph has only just been received, reached Nisch to-day, 2 P.M. There can be no truth whatever in reported outrages on women and children by Turkish troops, because villages invariably found quite deserted; two helpless men, one aged woman abandoned, kindly treated, sent to Nisch. I cannot answer for lives of villagers ahead surprised one occasion by Circassians who lifted cattle in face of enemy's forces, but no reason to believe outrages by them of the nature referred. All quiet here to-day.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Saturday night.

Servians still hold heights rear, also three batteries on plain yesterday morning shelled headquarters tents, no damage, wish Commander-in-chief would attack, situation cannot improve by looking at. Against inferior troops like Servians experience makes believe, with legitimate risk, ought to take Alexinatz at once, and probably Belgrad within week, perhaps waiting siege artillery, of which no intelligence, thus losing valuable time. Colonel Lindsay visited camp yesterday, coming from Widdin, Nisch, direct, has left four surgeons.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Sunday night.

Thursday telegram just reached me this morning. Servians do not appear have heard of arrangement, batteries have fired into our camp on and off during the day. Turks responded only to those in the rear when troublesome.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1054.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the note by which the Porte has announced the prolongation of the term during which the Imperial troops are ordered to abstain from offensive operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 24 Septembre, 1876.

LE délai pendant lequel les troupes Impériales en Serbie et au Monténégro avaient reçu l'ordre de suspendre leurs opérations et de se tenir strictement sur la défensive expirant demain Lundi, la Sublime Porte, ayant été informée qu'elle sera mise très prochainement à même de connaître la pensée des Puissances unies, vient d'expédier à ses commandants militaires de nouveaux ordres leur enjoignant de continuer à garder les mêmes positions et de s'abstenir, en attendant, de tout mouvement offensif.

En conséquence le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique que jusqu'au 21 Septembre, V.S. (3 Octobre, N.S.), exclusivement les troupes Impériales en Serbie et au Monténégro garderont l'attitude qu'elles ont prise depuis le 1/13 de ce mois à la condition que les Serbes et les Monténégrins de leur côté s'abstiendront de tout mouvement offensif.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1060.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1876.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the Grand Vizier's statement to Mr. Mavinich that the Porte saw no necessity for sending troops into the district of Philippopoli (which I reported to your Lordship by my despatch No. 1058 of the 20th instant), I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 19th instant, 81 officers and 2,840 men were dispatched by the Adrianople Railway to Tatar Bazardjik, and that a body of 200 Circassian irregulars left Bala Eski on the previous day for the same destination.

One of the Christian officials who were desired by the Porte to serve on the Commission just dispatched to Bulgaria has declined to do so on the plea of ill-health; and the Commission now consists of four Mussulmans and only three Christian members, namely, Ikiades, Vassa, and Yovantcho Effendis.

If the fourth member continues to be unable to undertake the duties, I shall suggest his place being filled by some one else.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1063.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1876.*

THE Grand Vizier has been too unwell to leave his house for some days, but I made arrangements this morning to meet Midhat Pasha and Salvet Pasha in order formally to communicate to them the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government as contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant.

I began by explaining to them the position in which Her Majesty's Government found themselves by the strong feeling at present prevailing in England against Turkey, and the two Ministers recognized with great frankness that it was under the circumstances impossible for them to expect from Great Britain the support which they might otherwise have hoped for.

I said that it had been necessary for Her Majesty's Government to frame conditions to which they would be able to obtain the assent of other Powers, and that they had exerted themselves to the utmost, and not without success, in modifying the views of some; but if the Porte declined to accept the present proposals and war ensued, as was most probable, their only course would be to withdraw from further interference, and allow events to take their course.

Upon my giving them the conditions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram they inquired whether they were to understand that all of those which had been put forward by the Porte were rejected.

To this I could return no answer; for although your Lordship had informed me that some of the Turkish conditions were regarded as inadmissible, I could not venture to say

that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to support any of them, and I could only promise to refer the question to your Lordship.

They repeated that they had engaged to submit to the mediation of the Powers for peace, whether their conditions were accepted or rejected, and they adhered to that engagement; but they declined, as before, to consent to a formal armistice before they were informed that the Powers would negotiate for peace and examine their conditions.

It was easier, they said, to make peace than to arrange an armistice; and the very hour that it was signed they were ready to commence the evacuation of the Principalities.

Upon this I said that it would not be impossible to find a way out of the difficulty; for the Porte had only to declare that it would sign preliminaries of peace upon the basis of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and would withdraw its troops, at the same time leaving all the details to the negotiations preceding the definitive Treaty.

The suggestion was favourably received; but the proposal that a Protocol should be signed by the Porte and the Powers respecting the future administration of the insurgent provinces was regarded as a measure that must be fatal to the authority of the Imperial Government and inevitably lead to insurrection in other parts.

I remarked that there was nothing in the proposed Protocol which the Porte had not declared itself disposed to grant to all the Empire.

Although the Powers had not thought themselves called upon to stipulate for anything except for the provinces of which the insurrection had brought about the present complications, there was no reason why the Porte should not announce its determination to carry out the reforms in question everywhere, and merely add in the Protocol that the arrangements already promised for the insurgent provinces should there be carried out, as being necessary for districts that had been devastated by civil war.

The Ministers deprecated the adoption of a Protocol, and said it would be much easier for the Porte to take the requisite engagement in a manner equally binding without such a formal instrument in regard to the internal administration of the Empire; and they suggested that the object aimed at by Her Majesty's Government could be obtained by identic notes addressed by the Porte to the foreign Representatives.

I said that my instructions prescribed a Protocol, but that I would submit what they had said to your Lordship's consideration.

Safvet Pasha having asked me to put in writing the mode of proceeding which I would suggest, I have to-night sent him the confidential Memorandum of which the copy is inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Memorandum.

Therapia, le 25 Septembre, 1876.

(Confidentielle.)

LA réponse de la Sublime Porte à la communication faite ce matin de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté pourrait être dans la forme d'un Mémorandum conçu dans des termes tellement nets qu'il déjouera toute tentative qui pourrait être faite pour retarder la conclusion immédiate de la paix.

Ce résultat sera certainement obtenu si dans le Mémorandum la Porte se déclare prête à signer dès aujourd'hui des préliminaires de paix, sur les bases indiquées dans le télégramme de Lord Derby, en laissant pour les négociations de la paix définitive tous les détails, et s'engage de commencer l'évacuation par ses troupes le lendemain de la signature des préliminaires.

Pour ce qui regarde les provinces insurgées le Protocole proposé ne contient rien en dehors de ce que la Sublime Porte elle-même se déclare résolue de donner à toutes ses provinces, excepté les arrangements spéciaux déjà promis, qui ne sont applicables qu'à des provinces qui ont été dévastées par la guerre civile.

Le Protocole pourrait donc parfaitement constater la résolution de la Porte de doter toutes ses provinces Européennes des institutions en question, et pour ce qui regarde les provinces insurgées de maintenir les mesures de soulagement déjà promises.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1064.)

Therapia, September 25, 1876.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the Turkish Ministers and others who are aware of the true position of affairs, know that peace at almost any price is necessary for the salvation of the Empire, there can be no doubt that great indignation prevails among the Mussulman population, at the prospect of its being made upon conditions which they regard as dishonourable, or, at least, as not giving them the satisfaction to which they consider themselves entitled, after the sacrifices made to repel an unprovoked attack.

A threatening notice against the Ministers has been affixed to some of the principal mosques, and the Christians are again alarmed at the language of the Mussulmans, who, they fear, may give way to violence upon the conclusion of peace.

I believe that they exaggerate their danger, and that the Government will be able to prevent the discontent from taking the form of overt acts, and also that there is a large class which will hail the restoration of peace with unmixed satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1065.)

Therapia, September 26, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of further reports which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, with reference to the excesses committed in the neighbourhood of Slimnia and of brigandage near Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Bourgas, September 14, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to continue the report commenced on the 9th September.

At the village of Kayabashi (forty-five houses, two and a half hours from Gradetch and in the Caza of Karnabad) Bashi-Bazouks commenced passing and of course plundering, on Sunday the 21st of May; upon their arrival the inhabitants, with such of their stock as they could hastily collect, fled to the neighbouring Turkish village, where the women and children were sheltered; the Turks refusing to receive the men, most of these with their cattle took to the woods; one of them, however, started at night for Gradetch, whence he returned the next day with a sergeant of police and three or four privates, who were able to induce the irregulars to leave: the Courroudjou or Garde Champêtre of Kayabashi, a Turk named Ahmet of Abdol-keui, also did his best to restrain the excesses committed by Bashi-Bazouks. In this village two men were wounded, one by a yataghan, the other by a pistol shot, and a third peasant named Bosionin Oglou Penio was induced to go with the Bashi-Bazouks by a promise that they would give him some wheat: this man's body was found three months afterwards, in the marshy lake of Soungourlar, between Kayabashi and Karnabad. The loss to this village was about 32,848 piastres.

Gradetch was again visited by Bachi-Bazouks on the 3rd June, on which day a fair was being held at Karnabad, eight hours distant: a report being spread that Chefket Pasha was marching upon Gradetch to sack it, hundreds of Mussulmans left the fair and the numbers swelling as they advanced, about 4,000 (the greater number of them Circassians) appeared before the village and commenced plundering in the outskirts, the captain (Ali Aga) and his company of soldiers being unable to restrain them.

At Karnabad there were fortunately some Asiatic regular troops encamped, and the major, with 300 men, was sent by the Kaïmakam in pursuit of the irregulars, whom they found engaged in destroying a mill near the village belonging to a certain Dino Chorbadji; as the plunderers refused to desist, they were fired upon, and a Turk from the Caza of Kirkil Aghadj was severely wounded: this put a stop to the pillage, but the irregulars and

their carts remained round the village for three days, being fed at the expense of the Bulgarians. The loss to Gradetch on the two occasions is 42,495 piastres.

In my Report of last week, whilst speaking of Bashkeui, I omitted to mention that a shepherd of that village, Penio Yanoff, returning home from the Dobrudja after a long absence, was met by Bashi-Bazouks close to Bashkeui and murdered.

In speaking of Shekerzadé, Mehmet Aga (of Slimnia), in connection with Papasskeui, I erroneously reported him as "since dead;" this, I am glad to say, was an error on my part.

The inhabitants of Keko-keui, Bashkeui, Catonista, Gradetch, and Papasskeui, are mostly shepherds or sheep-owners; the men spending the greater part of their time in the Dobrudja with their flocks, whilst the women spin and weave at home, and are certainly much richer than those of the purely agricultural villages of Roumelia which I have seen. They (with the natural exception of the peasants of Papasskeui) showed a good deal of the resignation to fate so common amongst semi-Oriental races, constantly saying, "What is done is done; our lives, thank God, are spared us; we can work, and so make up our losses; but when will affairs go back into their old groove, that we may be able to go without fear from one village to another, and attend to our business as before?"

Everywhere I heard the present Mutessarif of Slimnia spoken of by the Christian population in terms of the highest praise; they attribute to him, and I believe with perfect justice, that the Caza of Slimnia did not share the fate of that of Philibé.

The Roumelian soldiers appear to be generally a little too much inclined to petty larceny, and perhaps not under as strict a discipline as their Asiatic comrades, whose behaviour I have heard extolled (with but one exception) in all the places where they have been quartered. The exception is in the person of Youssouf Aga, Ikissdji Yuzbashi (first lieutenant?) of the Gumuch-hané battalion, who, having been quartered at Papasskeui for sixteen days with twenty-five men, the night before he left shut up in a room eleven of the principal chorbadjis, and extorted from them 4,379 piastres in money; three rugs, worth 600 piastres; a receipt (though he had paid nothing) for 2,507 piastres, value of food supplied to the soldiers; and a certificate that he had not only discharged all debts, but that his conduct during his stay in the village had been exemplary.

Having had occasion to mention the Mudir of Kazan, Hadji Shaban Aga, in connection with the district of Slimnia, I beg your Excellency's leave to cite another instance, amongst the many I have heard, in which he risked his own life to save that of others.

About the 24th May he heard that Bashi-Bazouks were advancing upon the village of Virbitza (caza of Turnova, six hours from Cazan), and started to overtake them, with a view of restraining excesses. Having come up with 300 of them, he walked along with them for some time, when two Christian peasants were seen at a distance. The Turks began to whisper amongst themselves that it would be a good thing to kill these men, as they might have money with them. Hadji Shaban (who was alone), understanding what was likely to happen, ordered the Bashi-Bazouks to stop, placed himself before the peasants, and said that he would see them safe to their homes at Virbitza. The Bashi-Bazouks beginning to murmur, he pointed his gun at the 300, commanded them to pass, and march fifty paces in front of him, and thus brought the two intended victims into Virbitza, and to their own houses.

Shortly afterwards Hadji Shaban was dismissed from his post, I do not know for what reason.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Bourgas, September 15, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, having received a telegram from Haidar Bey, the Mutessarif of Slimnia, expressing a particular wish to see me, I rode from Bourgas to Karnabad, on the 11th instant, for the purpose of meeting him.

At Karnabad Haidar Bey showed me a letter from the Grand Vizier, relative to two Reports addressed by me to your Excellency, of August 12 and 18, the first of which relates various instances of robberies committed by cavalry volunteers in the town of Karnabad, and mentions nine villages in the caza of Karnabad as having more especially suffered from depredations on the part of Bashi-Bazouks or others. The second is the

recital of an outrage committed at the village of Aghadjlar upon the daughter of a Bulgarian peasant, named Dragni.

With regard to the latter case, the Mutessarif informed me that a Special Commissioner had been sent from Adrianople, for the purpose of examining the affair, and that the peasants of Aghadjlar, the Council of Yamboli, and other persons, had given him a certificate declaring that only robbery and assault had been committed, the girl having escaped injury.

Haidar Bey then suggested to me that as my Report was in direct opposition to the certificate now in the hands of the Turkish authorities it might be possible to arrive at a "mezzo termine," by my writing that, having made further inquiries into the case I found that I had been to a certain extent misinformed. My answer was that, with such documents in their hands, the authorities would not need any recantation from me; and that at any rate, knowing the way in which such certificates are obtained, and being perfectly certain of the truth of every word contained in my Report, I must decline to add to or subtract from anything I had already written on the subject.

With regard to the statements contained in my Report, Haidar Bey informed me that of three Bulgarians questioned as to the horses supposed to be taken from them, two confirmed my Report, the third saying that he had sold his horse, and had received part payment.

The Mutessarif also informed me that he had sent out persons to the nine villages named by me to inquire into their losses. I took this opportunity of remarking that I did not think there were three Bulgarian villages in the cazas of Karnabad and Slimnia that had not suffered either by Bashi-Bazouks, or by their Mussulman neighbours, to the extent of from 150 to 250 Turkish pounds; and that the system of extorting money or goods from the Christian peasants was in full force at the time of our conversation.

In the letter of instructions from the Grand Vizier was a line to the effect that "Mr. Brophy will give you the names of the persons from whom he had his information." To this I replied that, having no instructions from your Excellency to do so, and knowing that the information in question was not only substantially, but literally, correct, I must beg to refuse to say from whom I had learnt it.

I must beg to observe to your Excellency that whilst I maintain, and can prove, the strict accuracy of every word in the two Reports now questioned, I am far from blaming either Haidar Bey or the Kaimakam of Karnabad. Both of these gentlemen have done their utmost to prevent the outrages which have reduced the Christian population of the sandjak of Slimnia to the state in which it now is; and but for them that state would be infinitely worse.

Unfortunately the means at their command are inadequate. A handfull of policemen cannot restrain the lust of plunder which, since the last four months, has taken possession of the Mussulmans of Roumelia; and, unless a radical change takes place, or is enforced, amongst the Turkish peasantry, I fear that their Bulgarian fellow-subjects will never again enjoy peace or prosperity.

Were I to write, not all I hear, but all I know, of the daily sufferings of the Rayahs in my Consular district, I should have to use reams of paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Bourgas, September 15, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 30th August last a lad of 18 or 20 years old, son of a widow named Yanoutza, of the village of Kukchuk Kaleh in the Caza of Aidos, was carried off from the field he was carrying sheaves in, and conveyed by five persons to a forest near Bourgas, about 25 miles distant. A week after this the sum of 8,000 piastres was paid to his captors, and the lad was released.

The Kaimakams of Aidos and Bourgas sent out patrols as soon as they were informed of the circumstances, but up to the present time the criminals have not been arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1066.) *Therapia, September 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul at Belgrade has forwarded to me complaints that have reached him from the Servian authorities regarding excesses said to have been committed by the Turkish troops upon their prisoners.

Copies of these have no doubt been sent to your Lordship's office by Mr. White.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay, who has recently been at the head-quarters of the contending armies, is staying here for a few days. I showed some of them in his hands, and he has been able to give an unqualified denial, on the authority of General Kemball himself, to the gravest of the accusations brought against the Turkish soldiery.

I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of the papers in question, together with Colonel Lindsay's remarks upon them.

Colonel Lindsay states that there has been great abuse of the Red Cross, and that as many Russians joined the Servians as combatants bearing that sign, to which they were in no respect entitled, it is very probable that some of these may have been fired upon and killed.

It is not possible to verify the statements issued by the Servian Government with regard to the excesses of the Turkish troops in the Bulgarian villages, but, while they may be true, it is at the same time to be remembered that a system has been organised for creating a feeling of animosity in Europe against Turkey by means of manufactured reports of excesses committed by the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Colonel Protitch to M. Nikolitch.

(Traduction.) *Alexinatz, le 30 Juillet, 1876.*

M. le Ministre,

HIER, 29 Juillet, les Turcs ont commis en plein jour des actes de barbarie dignes du moyen âge.

A la liste des villages détruits par les Turcs il faut en ajouter douze qui avaient été occupés par nos troupes et qui ont été les victimes du brigandage Musulman. Les villages de Tzérié, Paitlina, Berlekinizzi, Trnava le haut et le bas, Topavnitza le haut et le bas, Millkovtzi et le Monastère de la Sainte Vierge, Bébé Polié, Kravié, Drajovzi et Mezgrain n'existent plus. Tous ont été reduits en cendres. Des habitants une partie a échappé par la fuite, les autres ont été massacrés.

Tout cela a été exécuté par l'armée régulière Turque assistée dans son œuvre par des Bachi-Bozouks et à l'aide de la ruse la plus lâche.

Tandis qu'à l'aile gauche les Bachi-Bozouks procédaient au massacre et à l'incendie sous la protection de Nizams, d'autres corps de Nizams traversaient les autres villages en arrivaient à proximité de nos avant-postes, rassurant sur leur passage les paysans et les engageant à se livrer paisiblement à leurs travaux. Puis ils commencèrent à mettre le feu aux villages les plus proches de nos lignes et à en massacrer la population. Ensuite ils firent successivement éprouver le même sort aux autres villages dont ils avaient rassuré les habitants à leur passage. A Tzérié ils ont tout mis à mort et n'ont épargné que deux jeunes filles qu'ils ont emmenées en esclavage.

Nulle part ils n'ont réussi à passer la frontière les nôtres les ayant accueillis par un feu très nourri. De notre côté nous avons eu quelques blessés et cinq morts dont les Turcs ont réussi à s'emparer, et qu'ils ont mutilés et coupés en morceaux.

(Signé) C. PROTITCH.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay's comments on the preceding Letter.

THIS letter was shown to me when I was in Servia fourteen days ago. I took a copy, intending to inquire into the truth of the story when I reached the head-quarters of the Turkish army. On the 15th September I saw Sir A. Kemball before Alexinatz, and after reading the letter, he said, villages had certainly been burnt, but they were deserted villages, and that no villagers had been killed. With regard to the young girls having been sold as

slaves, Sir Arnold was satisfied that it was entirely untrue. These stories are greatly exaggerated and sometimes entirely invented. They have an obvious purpose, which unfortunately has answered its end too well. Amongst these papers I do not see any report of the story of four men having been burnt alive on gibbets, while four other men were flayed alives; but I see in the "Times" of the 14th September Mr. Lewis Farley quotes a letter which he says he has received from Ristich (the Servian Minister), in which he gives an account of this frightful spectacle, and speaks of the heart-rending cries heard during the night from the left bank of the Morava to which the Turks had retired.

This story was too improbable and ridiculous to be told to Mr. White, so it is reserved for the English public, who delight in hearing these sensational horrors.

The groundwork of the story was first told to me when I was in Alexinatz soon after it was said to have happened. I was there told of the burning of the men on gibbets by the Turks. I took a note of the story and submitted it to Sir Arnold Kemball, who said that the bodies were burnt certainly, but it was when they were dead, and it was easier to burn them than to bury them.

The stories of the cries coming across the Morava valley would not be believed for a moment by any one knowing the ground.

(Signed) R. L. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Colonel Georyevitch to M. Ristitch.

(Télégraphique.) *Alexinatz, le [illegible] 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le détachement de cavalerie régulière Turque qui a pris, le 2 Septembre, à 10 heures du matin, Louka Popovitch, Secrétaire du sous-Comité de la Croix Rouge d'Alexinatz, ne s'est pas borné à le tuer, mais lui a d'abord abattu et coupé en morceaux le bras qui portait le brassard blanc, puis après avoir tué leur victime d'un coup de feu dans la poitrine les Turcs ont lacéré la Croix Rouge à coups de yataghan.

Colonel Loyd-Lindsay's Remarks.

"If a person wearing the Red Cross on his arm has been killed, it can be a matter of no astonishment. It is well known that numbers of Russians came into Servia wearing the Red Cross on their arms, having no other object in view than of joining the combatants.

(Signed) R. L. L.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1067.) *Therapia, September 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1036 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, dated the 21st instant, stating that he returned on the previous evening from the interior, and that, from inquiries which he made at Uskup, Pristina, and Mitrovitza stations on the 19th instant, among Mahommedans and Christians who had left the Prisrend districts on the 18th instant, it appears that the report about the pillage of sixty villages in that district is false.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 71.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Bucharest, September 27, 1876.

My Lord,

M. JONESCO called upon me yesterday to express his own and his colleagues' gratification at the communication in which I had conveyed, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, the approbation of Her Majesty's Government of the pacific policy of the Government of Prince Charles.

M. Jonesco then entered upon various subjects, which I shall lay before your Lordship as briefly as possible.

He informed me that there were now upwards of 2,000 volunteers in Bessarabia, waiting to cross the frontier, and that they were daily entering this country in batches of 60 to 100 by different routes, which coincides with information which Mr. St. John had forwarded me the same day in a private letter.

The Minister expressed great apprehension that the date is not far distant when the volunteers would endeavour to cross the frontier in organized battalions, or, indeed, that the Russian Government might make a formal demand for the passage of an army through Roumania, and what were they to do in the face of such eventualities?

I replied that I thought, in both cases, his alarms were premature, that the situation in the East, as it were, lived but from day to day; that, although Her Majesty's Government is steadfastly working for the pacification of Turkey, at any moment an access of obstinacy at Constantinople, an act of arrogant temerity on the part of Tchernaieff, a false step of Prince Milan, a sudden resolve at Livadia, or a whisper from Varzin, might change the whole aspect of affairs, and that I saw no reason why Roumania should aspire to acuter prevision than the great ones of the earth.

M. Jonesco represented himself as extremely dissatisfied with Baron Stuart, the Russian Diplomatic Agent, that it was impossible to get anything out of him, that he was, in turn, evasive and supplicatory; as an instance of the latter tone, the Baron had come to him to request that no obstacles should be offered to the passage of half a-dozen "Popes," with cases containing ecclesiastical vestments and "objets de religion," &c., for the Servian army; and when M. Jonesco taxed him with the open complicity of the Russian Consul at Jassy, in the volunteer movement, Baron Stuart begged that no notice should be taken of the matter, that it was of no moment, that the Russian Consul at Jassy had strong views on the subject, and was carried away by his enthusiasm.

I pointed out to the Minister that Baron Stuart probably said little, because he had no instructions, that it was in the highest degree unlikely that Prince Gortchakow had committed himself to any definite orders respecting the volunteers, and that the Russian Government left it to Baron Stuart's tact and personal influence not to compromise them.

That the Roumanian Government ought rather to be satisfied with the attitude of the Russian Agent; had the latter exacted greater facilities for the volunteers, in a tone of authoritative defiance, what could the Government of Prince Charles answer? What excuse could they make to the Porte? that Roumania was anxious to keep clear of the oriental crisis, and that Baron Stuart, up to the present time, was certainly not adding to their embarrassments.

M. Jonesco next informed me, that they had received the communication *in extenso* from the Porte, mentioned in my despatch No. 8 of September 17; that it was conceived in most conciliatory language, but while admitting the difficulty of the position of Roumania, stated that, should the latter be really too weak to efficiently protect the inviolability of the frontier of the Empire, the Porte might be compelled to take other measures, which M. Jonesco conceived to refer to the sending of gun-boats to the Danube, adding "la Porte n'a que le faire," it would save us a great deal of responsibility.

I took the liberty of drawing M. Jonesco's attention to the extreme inconvenience which would result from the presence of Turkish gun-boats on the Danube at the present juncture, that they would be obstructing the passage of, and probably firing upon the Russian volunteers, that such incidents must inevitably influence public opinion in Russia, that the Russian and the Turk would then be in direct collision on other than Servian ground, and that it was impossible to say what bias might be given to the policy of the Russian Government, the volunteers would take another route and nothing would be gained.

With regard to the reply to the communication of the Porte, I suggested that M. Jonesco should telegraph to the Roumanian Agent at Pera to inform the Grand Vizier

that an answer would be forwarded which the Government of Prince Charles felt certain would be satisfactory to the Porte.

I pointed out to M. Jonesco that as the Porte is not famous for returning speedy answers, except under special pressure, it appeared to me that they had no need to be very expeditious with their reply; rather to let it stand over for eight or ten days time, during which period the negotiations for peace might have taken such a form that the Roumanian answer would be merely a recapitulation of past events, and be regarded as little more than the acknowledgment of the receipt of the communication from the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 72.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 454.)

St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a leading article from this morning's "Agence Russe," on the proposals submitted by the Powers to the Porte for the conclusion of peace.

This article—written under official inspiration—is extremely moderate and pacific.

I further annex from the same journal an article in translation from the Russian "Gazette de St. Pétersbourg," on the attitude of Roumania in the present crisis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe" of September $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

LA démarche de l'Europe auprès de la Turquie est faite. Sir H. Elliot a remis à la Porte les demandes des Puissances, appuyées aussitôt après par leurs cinq Représentants. Le Grand Vézir leur a répondu que le Grand Conseil allait en être saisi, et qu'il leur communiquerait le résultat de ses délibérations. Ces demandes sur lesquelles il n'a pas encore été si facile d'établir un accord, nous paraissent de nature à satisfaire les plus exigeants. Nous ne parlons pas, bien entendu, de ceux qui, prenant leurs rêves pour des réalités, ne doutant de rien, pas même des maux que la guerre pourrait occasionner à leur pays, ne se diraient satisfaits que s'ils voyaient l'Europe entière, et à son défaut la Russie, s'armer en croisade pour chasser les Turcs de l'Europe. Nous faisons allusion à cette grande majorité de gens sensés, qui tout en s'inspirant du plus noble et du plus fier patriotisme, sait comprendre que ceux dont les résolutions décident des destinées d'une nation sont tenus de se montrer circonspects avant d'engager celles-ci dans les hazards de la guerre et doivent peser prudemment tout d'abord le pour et le contre, c'est-à-dire ce qui peut être obtenu sans les maux de la guerre, et ce que ceux-ci pourraient au mieux aller produire.

Si l'on se reporte surtout à la première phase des négociations, on doit reconnaître que les demandes actuelles de l'Europe sont bien autrement précises et décisives. La Serbie, qui, comme l'a déclaré son Gouvernement, n'a entrepris la guerre pour obtenir l'amélioration du sort de ses populations sœurs, dont le territoire est pourtant envahi, est assurée exceptionnellement du *status quo ante*, c'est-à-dire, par conséquent, que son Prince n'aura pas besoin de recevoir une nouvelle investiture, qu'il conservera ses droits et prérogatives actuelles, que ses forteresses ne seront ni démantelées ni occupées, qu'elle n'aura à payer aucune indemnité de guerre, etc. Par contre, les populations Chrétiennes de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, voir même celles de la Bulgarie, recevront une autonomie administrative locale, qui les garantira contre les exactions et les mauvais traitements des employés Turcs. En Bulgarie, dont les habitants Turcs sont si nombreux, cette autonomie devra nécessairement assumer un caractère particulier, moins général, plus local qu'ailleurs, mais en tout état de cause, là comme ailleurs, les populations seront définitivement garanties contre le traitement et le renouvellement des cruautés dont l'Europe s'est si légitimement émue, ce qui—il ne faut pas perdre de vue—a été dès l'origine, le but essentiel et primitif de la médiation des Puissances, et même de l'intervention armée de la Serbie et du Monténégro.

Rien assurément ne s'oppose pour que ces changements aient toute la force et la consécration voulues, qu'ils soient contenus en détails dans le Traité même qui stipulera les conditions de paix. Ce sont bien là en effet les conditions de la paix. Quant aux

ntentions qu'on prête à la Porte de donner à ces changements la forme de concessions élargies à tout l'Empire, ce sont là des velléités de politique Byzantine hors de mise, qui prouvent seulement qu'on ne se rend pas encore tout-à-fait compte à Constantinople de ce que veut réellement l'Europe en général et en particulier la Russie.

La Cause Slave en Roumanie.—On dit dans la "Gazette (Russe) de St. Pétersbourg":—

"La Roumanie s'est créée une position assez étrange. Elle ne donne pas son concours aux Slaves du Sud et pourtant il y a similitude entre le sort de la Moldo-Valachie et celui de la Serbie et du Monténégro. Les Roumains ne nient pas, il est vrai, cette solidarité et leur Gouvernement commence à reconnaître que son attitude actuelle dans la crise ne peut pas indéfiniment se prolonger. Une rupture entre la Russie et la Turquie aurait nécessairement pour conséquence de précipiter ses décisions. Il n'y a pas à douter qu'alors la Roumanie se réunirait à ceux qui combattent le joug Musulman. De récentes nouvelles de Bucharest nous entretiennent dans ces idées. Si, au lieu de Bratiano, il y avait encore à la tête des affaires Katardji, depuis longtemps la guerre aurait été déclarée à la Turquie. Le Ministère Bratiano s'est rallié à la politique de l'Angleterre et de l'Autriche, dans l'idée que la Serbie et le Monténégro pouvaient être vaincus et qu'alors la Roumanie retirerait quelqu'avantage de sa neutralité. Nous avons vu que ce calcul se trouve déjoué, d'abord parcequ'la Serbie n'est pas vaincue, puis parcequ'e l'Angleterre passe à un autre système. Il est probable que Bratiano choisisse ce moment pour revenir au programme de l'ancien Ministère par la raison que lors d'une débâck il préférera être du côté du manche plutôt que du côté de la cognée. Nous ne sommes guère disposé à accorder une grande valeur aux avances gracieuses qui sont faites en ce moment à la Roumanie par la presse Hongroise. On sait à Bucharest et ailleurs ce que peuvent valoir ces tendresses. La perspective d'une réunion à la Monarchie des Habsbourg n'est pas faite pour charmer les Roumains. Ils commencent à comprendre qu'une plus longue incertitude devient dangereuse, et qu'il n'est que temps de se mettre à l'abri des embrassements fraternels qu'on leur propose en Hongrie. On parle d'un voyage du Prince Charles à Livadia dans le but de poser les bases d'une action ultérieure. Quoi qu'il en soit de ce bruit, il est certain qu'en cas de complications, une attitude de la Roumanie dans le sens Slave déciderait et faciliterait bien des choses."

Traitant le même sujet le "Goloss" dit:—

"L'Agence Havas,' dit-il, nous annonce un programme auquel la Russie aurait donné son consentement en principe. Cela seul nous indiquerait que le dit programme pourrait ne pas être tout à fait conforme à celui que la Russie croit indispensable pour assurer le sort des Chrétiens et le maintien de la paix d'Orient. Cependant, il n'en faudrait pas conclure que la Russie a renoncé à ses premières idées impartiales et pratiques; elle a pu consentir à ce que des conditions, même incomplètes, fussent présentées à la Porte, et cela afin de ne pas retarder le commencement de pourparlers sérieux. Mais alors elle s'est réservé certainement de revenir aux points principaux de son programme. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue que, en tous cas, la voix de la Russie sera au dernier moment prépondérante. L'Europe n'ignore pas que notre Gouvernement est fermement résolu d'en finir avec la crise Orientale, de sorte qu'elle ne puisse plus troubler la bonne entente entre les Cabinets Européens. Or, pour atteindre ce but la Russie ne reculera devant aucun sacrifice. Là est toute sa force."

No. 73.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 825. Very Confidential.) *Paris, October 2, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes came to me this afternoon, and spoke to me at very great length on the Eastern question.

He said that he was alarmed and perplexed, and that he wished very much to obtain an opinion as to the course which should now be taken by England and France. Discouraging intelligence had, he said, come to him from all quarters.

From Constantinople, the Comte de Bourgoing reported it to be very probable that

the conditions of the Powers would be rejected by the Porte, or that the answer to them would be indefinitely postponed. The Grand Vizier had, indeed, gone so far as to say to M. de Bourgoing that it had become impossible to make the voice of reason heard, and that he himself, Midhat Pasha, and the other moderate members of the Government, might be obliged to retire from office. This might, the Duc Decazes thought, be, perhaps, regarded as a mere cry from the Grand Vizier for help, but it certainly did not indicate any probability that the proposals of the Powers would be agreed to speedily and unconditionally.

The Duke went on to say that, from Berlin, the French Chargé d'Affaires reported that M. de Bülow had said to him that the time for discussing the details of the conditions proposed to the Porte appeared to have gone by; that the essential question was the armistice; that the Porte seemed determined to refuse this; that, if she did so, she must be left to her fate; that the German Government had done everything in its power to preserve peace, and that having failed, by the fault of the Turks, it would wash its hands of the whole affair.

The Duc Decazes observed to me that the conclusion to be drawn from this language seemed to be that Germany and Russia had come to an understanding, and that the utmost to be expected from Germany, in case of a contest in the East, would be a nominal neutrality, a neutrality in fact very friendly to Russia.

The intelligence which had reached the Duke from Vienna was not more satisfactory than that which he had received from Constantinople and Berlin. There could, he thought, be very little doubt that the letter from the Emperor Alexander conveyed by General Sumarokoff to the Emperor of Austria did, in fact, contain a demand for the concession to the Sclavonic Provinces in Turkey of an autonomy much more extensive than that contemplated by the English proposals to the Porte. Of course the letter contained also the suggestions made by Russia to the other Powers respecting the occupation of Bosnia, Bulgaria, and the Bosphorus. What might have been the exact arrangements made between the two Emperors at Reichstadt the Duke could not say; but since the first breaking out of the insurrection in the Herzegovina, it had been apparent that Count Andrassy generally ended by yielding to Russia.

The Duke proceeded to remark that the proceedings of the Russian Government were hardly to be explained, except on the supposition that it had some objects of its own in view beyond a simple pacification of Turkey in Europe and an amelioration of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan. The Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow had certainly no great sympathy with the movement in Russia in favour of the Servians. It was, on the contrary, undoubtedly regarded by them as revolutionary and dangerous, but, nevertheless, very little effort had been made by them to check it. Nor did the Russian Government seem even now to be really intent on producing an immediate pacification. It had not only proposed an occupation of Turkish territory, but had taken care that its proposal should appear in the newspapers. This did not look as if it desired to allay excitement in Europe, until some greater effect had been produced, than a pacification on the terms proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

It did not appear to the Duc Decazes difficult to conjecture what the immediate objects of the Russian Government really were.

It had for some time been evident that Prince Gortchakow was bent upon assembling a European Conference, and upon making such arrangements for it as should ensure his being himself its President.

It was, on the other hand, well-known that the Emperor Alexander had always felt humiliated by the terms which Russia had, at the beginning of his reign, been forced to accept in the Treaty of Paris. He was believed to entertain an ardent desire not to leave his Empire at the end of his reign in the position to which she had been thus reduced. He had already obtained the abolition of the restrictions to which Russia had been subjected in the Black Sea. His present object was no doubt to complete the work by recovering the part of Bessarabia, which had been ceded by the Treaty of Paris. Prince Gortchakow no doubt encouraged the Emperor to expect that this might be peacefully effected by an European Congress.

The Duc Decazes could not help thinking that if, on this point, the Emperor obtained satisfaction, and was thus enabled to gratify the patriotic feelings of his own subjects, the difficulty of settling the remaining questions would not prove to be very great.

I hope that I have succeeded in giving a faithful summary of the most important part of what the Duc Decazes said to me in a conversation which lasted nearly an hour and a half.

The Duke concluded as he had begun, by expressing an earnest desire for an opinion

as to the course to be taken by England and France in the present peculiarly perplexing position of the Eastern question.

The only hint he gave of his own views was a remark which he made incidentally that France might very well do nothing at all in her present situation, and that perhaps this would be the best policy; but that he supposed England could hardly abstain from all action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 74.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 826. Confidential.)
Paris, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me this afternoon that he had been somewhat pressed by Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, to give him some intimation of the course which the French Government would be likely to take with regard to the Russian proposals for an occupation of Turkish territory, in the event of the Porte's rejecting the conditions of peace put forward by the Powers.

He said that he had pointed out in general terms some of the inconveniences which might attend the measures proposed, but had reserved his opinion on the subject of adopting them, and had expressed a hope that the contingency which they contemplated might not occur.

I told him that when they were communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, you had urged that threats of the kind might change the present prudent dispositions of the Sultan and his Ministers; that they might lead to outbreaks against the Christians in Turkey; and that they could not but produce a bad impression in Europe generally. I added that your Lordship had declined to give an answer as to the adoption of them until you had consulted your colleagues.

The first proposal that Bosnia, Bulgaria, and the Bosphorus should all be occupied appeared to have been communicated to the Duc Decazes some time before the second, which confined the occupation to the presence of the fleets in the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 75.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 827.)
Paris, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes gave me this afternoon an account of a conversation which he had had a day or two before with Sadig Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador here, on the subject of the conditions of peace proposed by England to the Porte.

Sadig Pasha had, it appeared, been instructed by the Porte to ask for the help of the French Government towards obtaining modifications of these conditions.

The two points to which he had drawn particular attention were, it seemed, the application of the word "autonomy" to the institutions to be established in the revolted Provinces, and the requirement that the Porte should enter into an engagement by Protocol with the Great Powers on the subject of these institutions.

As regarded the word "autonomy," the Duke had, he told me, pointed out to Sadig Pasha that the explanation by which it was accompanied defined it and qualified it, and that it seemed to him impossible that it could be changed.

With respect to the proposed Protocol the Duke had, he said, observed to Sadig Pasha that he was surprised that the Porte did not see that it was acting against its own interests in objecting to the Protocol. What did a Protocol imply? Nothing more than that the ordinary Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople should meet the Turkish Ministers in that capital, and sign a document confined to a single point.

Did it not occur to the Porte that this was the best means of avoiding a formal Congress of the Great Powers, to which a Turkish Plenipotentiary might not be invited, which would certainly not assemble on Turkish territory, and which might take up numerous questions affecting the very existence of the Ottoman Empire?

The Duke had then, he told me, proceeded to say, in strong terms, to Sadig Pasha,

that the Porte was acting equally against its own interests in refusing to make a regular armistice.

It was by such a measure only that it could hope to stop the influx of Russian volunteers into Servia. It was of course to be expected that the armistice would contain an article providing against assistance being given to either of the contending parties by the subjects of any of the Six Powers.

The Duke proceeded to say that, in answer to a question from Sadig Pasha, he had distinctly expressed the opinion that Russia would agree to such an article in an armistice, and would in practice prevent any more Russian volunteers from going to swell the ranks of the Servian army.

He added that he had at first been afraid that he had gone a little too far in stating this so confidently, but that later in the day he had mentioned to Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, what he had said to Sadig Pasha, and had been confirmed by the Prince in the belief that the Russian Government would in fact be willing, on the conclusion of an armistice, to engage not to allow Russian volunteers to join the Servians.

The Duc Decazes told me, in conclusion, that he had directed the Marquis d'Harcourt to make your Lordship acquainted with what had been said by Prince Orloff on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 76.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 828.)
Paris, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes sent one of the Secretaries of his Cabinet to me late this evening to read to me a telegram which had just been received from the Comte de Vogüe, the French Ambassador at Vienna.

The telegram was dated 5 P.M. to-day.

It stated that General Soumarokoff had received the answer of the Emperor Francis Joseph to the letter which he had delivered to His Majesty from the Emperor of Russia, and had left Vienna.

It went on to say that the Government declined to make the contents of the letter known to any one until it should have reached its destination; but it added confidentially that M. de Vogüe had reason to believe that the proposal for occupying portions of Turkish territory in certain contingencies was assented to.

The telegram stated further that Count Zichy, the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople reported to his Government that the Porte was likely to refuse the demand of the Powers for an armistice, and to reject the conditions of peace.

Finally the Duc Decazes was informed by the telegram that Count Zichy attributed the unfavourable disposition of the Porte mainly to a hope entertained by the Turkish Ministers that there would be disunion among the Powers, and to a belief which those Ministers still cherished, that, in the last extremity, Turkey would be defended by England.

I have already communicated to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of the above telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 77.

Prince Gortchakoff to Count Schouvaloff.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, October 4.*)

(Télégraphique.)
Livadia, le 3 Octobre, 1876, 3·27 P.M.

MARDI une suspension d'hostilités régulière et d'une durée suffisante n'ayant pas été établie, et les négociations de paix rencontrant des difficultés inattendues à Constantinople, la lutte a été renouvelée dans la vallée de la Morava. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait voir d'un œil indifférent le sang couler dans la presqu'île des Balcans. L'Empereur propose aux Cours Garantes d'arrêter cette effusion de sang en imposant immédiatement

aux deux parties un armistice ou une trève de six semaines pour donner aux Cabinets le temps d'aviser au règlement définitif des questions pendantes.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 488. Confidential.). *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN the course of a long and confidential conversation which I had with the Russian Ambassador yesterday, reference was made to the proposals of his Government for measures of coercion in case the Porte definitively rejected the terms of peace which have been submitted to it.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I could give no positive opinion upon these measures until they had been discussed by my colleagues in the Cabinet Council which was to be held to-day. I did not, however, conceal from his Excellency that the proposals were of a nature to raise grave objections, and that some of them, at least, were likely to be viewed with disfavour in this country.

Several possible alternatives were then mentioned, and among others one to the following effect: that in case of an unfavourable reply from the Porte to the proposals now before it, the Powers should fall back upon their original demand for an armistice, which would afford time for them to consider what further steps should be taken.

Count Schouvaloff said that he would telegraph this suggestion at once to Livadia, and this morning his Excellency called upon me and read to me confidentially a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, which he had just received, though he was not certain that it was in answer to his message. It was to the following effect:—

A regular suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the negotiations for peace having encountered unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the contest had been renewed in the valley of the Morava.

The Imperial Government could not be indifferent to the bloodshed thus caused, and the Emperor proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that it shall be arrested by immediately imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties, so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I had no difficulty in submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and Her Majesty's Government have decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace.

They have, on the other hand, been unable to concur in the measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

I have informed Count Schouvaloff of this decision.

I am, &c
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 79.

Prince Bismarck to Baron von Brincken.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Baron von Brincken, October 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 3, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has officially communicated to-day the refusal of the peace proposals by the Porte.

Turkey is willing to concede by means of general reforms more than the Powers have asked for. To make concessions to single Provinces will bring the other Provinces to revolution.

The proposed Protocol cannot be signed.'

No. 80.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 3, 1876, 9 P.M.*

WITH reference to French Ambassador's opinions reported in a telegram received from your Lordship this evening, his Excellency said to me to-day that he now hears the scheme for a naval demonstration is most spoken of.

It is correct that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that the Porte hopes for eventual protection of England, and that Halil Pasha has principally led it to do so.

Mr. H. Gastrell states, in a most confidential despatch forwarded by post to-day, that M. Tisza has said to him that Austria-Hungary may have to occupy Turkish provinces, not for herself, but to prevent an enemy doing so; but Baron Orczy has again said to me to-day, without stating that Russian proposal has been rejected, that Count Andrassy's policy has always been not to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina either permanently or temporarily.

No. 81.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 4, 1876, 9·30 A.M.*
(Secret.)

PRINCE BISMARCK'S opinion is still unknown, but there is reason to think that the Emperor William is favourable to proposed Russian occupation policy, and hopes the Emperor of Austria will agree. It is believed that such a measure would be well received by public opinion in Germany.

No. 82.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 4, 1876, 9·35 A.M.*

FANATIC Mussulmans having threatened the brother of the late German Consul at Salonica, German Government have ordered another ship of war from Smyrna to Salonica for protection of German subjects.

No. 83.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 4, 1876, 9·52 A.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated this morning to General Bülow the answer of the Porte to Her Majesty's Government rejecting Protocol and autonomy, but confirming general reforms. General Bülow received it *ad referendum*, and sent it on to the Emperor and Chancellor.

No. 84.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, 2·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 4, 1876, 12·30 P.M.*

IN case of the inevitable passage of Russian troops through Roumania, contemplated by recent special mission of Russian General to Vienna, Roumania (is?) desirous of an immediate arrangement by the Guaranteeing Powers to secure her position, as anxious to take no part in the conflict.

They communicate with St. Petersburgh in the same sense.

No. 85.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 4, 1876, noon.*

MR. MONSON, in a cyphered despatch to your Lordship, dated 28th ultimo, states:—

"Respecting Russian complicity in the insurrection and the war, I am informed by Signor Durando that the Private Secretary of Prince Nicholas told him, in the most positive terms, 'that if the Czar could inspect the letters which His Highness had received, His Imperial Majesty would send, not only M. Yonine, but Prince Gortchakow also, to Siberia.'

"I shall not fail to follow up this indication when I am in Montenegro."

No. 86.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 4, 1876.*

THE following is from Monson:—

"Prince Nicholas returned last night, and received me.

"His Highness was most cordial and frank, and kept me in a conversation more than half-an-hour. He particularly wished Her Majesty's Government to understand he is in no sense a 'lieutenant of the Czar.' He is anxious for peace, and displeased with the attitude of Servia. He trusts Her Majesty's Government will support such conditions of peace as will enable him to live on good terms with Turkey. He will tell me to-night his ideas as to the territorial concessions.

"I can see that His Highness would be greatly impressed if Her Majesty's Government would in some way accredit me, even provisionally, to him, and consequently strengthen my hands against Russian Agent who is preaching war."

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876, 5·24 P.M.*

HAVE you carried out the instructions in my No. 672 of the 21st ultimo?

No. 88.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 4, 1876.*
(Very Confidential.)

GERMAN Government are anxious to know what Her Majesty's Government think of the Russian proposal to enforce an armistice on the belligerents.

Count Andrassy's intentions are not known here.

No. 89.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Octobre, 1876.*

IL nous revient de plusieurs côtés que des pourparlers ont lieu entre les Puissances pour combiner une occupation militaire de certaines parties de l'Empire. Les Autrichiens occuperaient la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine; la Russie, la Bulgarie; et les flottes de l'Angleterre et de la France réunies viendraient mouiller dans le Bosphore. Nous nous refusons de

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

croire que l'Europe puisse se prêter à une telle mesure. Mais il nous paraît difficile de nier le fait des négociations. Ainsi, la Turquie, qui a usé d'une modération j'ose dire sans exemple dans l'histoire, à l'égard de son vassal révolté, et a fait taire son juste ressentiment et jusqu'aux suggestions de son propre sécurité pour s'incliner devant les conseils de l'Europe, verrait, en retour de tant de désintéressement et d'esprit de conciliation, son territoire envahi par les armes des Puissances armées et alliées, et cela juste au moment où, sous les regards de l'Europe, elle se prépare à doter le pays d'institutions destinées à étendre à tout l'Empire les bienfaits que les Puissances avaient en vue pour quelques unes seulement de ses provinces, et c'est parceque la Turquie n'a pas accepté et n'acceptera jamais une pareille distinction qu'on veut lui infliger cette démonstration. Quel intérêt trouve-t-elle, l'Europe, à préparer cette catastrophe pour notre pays à cause de la non-acceptation d'un simple mot dont nous voulons réaliser la signification telle qu'elle nous a été suggérée? Avant de se lancer dans cette voie, au bout de laquelle elle ne peut voir que de terribles complications pour elle-même, ne serait-elle pas mieux d'attendre pour voir de quelle manière nous réaliserons nos promesses? Si le projet qu'on attribue aux Gouvernements venait à se réaliser la Turquie n'aurait à opposer aux forces des Puissances que l'évidence de son droit et les actes signés par elles. Si la Sublime Porte a pu oublier qu'elle a été victorieuse dans la provocation, elle n'oubliera pas qu'elle est encore un Etat indépendant, et qu'elle se doit à elle-même de préférer la mort honorable au démembrement et au partage de ses états.

Veuillez vous énoncer dans le sens de cette dépêche auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 90.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 622. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876.*

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called here to-day and inquired what view Her Majesty's Government took of the proposal made by the Emperor of Russia respecting an armistice.

I informed him, confidentially, in reply that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to assent to urging upon the Porte an armistice of not less than a month.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 91.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876.*

I HAVE read with much interest the report of M. Durando's impressions as to the character and views of the Prince of Montenegro contained in your despatch No. 169 of the 26th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 92.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 409. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me, in confidence, the substance of a telegram from his Government on the subject of General Soumarokoff's mission to Vienna.

Count Andrassy states that the General was the bearer of an autograph letter from the Emperor of Russia to the Emperor Francis Joseph, of the contents of which there can, of course, be no communication or discussion.

General Soumarokoff was at the same time instructed to make a communication from the Russian Government, which had also been addressed to the other Cabinets, involving a proposal for the military occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia, and the simultaneous presence of the fleets of the Great Powers in the Bosphorus, with a view to forcing the Porte to accept the conditions of peace, and to prevent any further massacres.

The Austrian Government, Count Andrassy states, cannot consider the first part of this proposal as calculated to attain the two objects above-mentioned. They have, therefore been unable to accept it.

On the other hand, they are of opinion that if, in the course of negotiations, necessity should arise to have recourse to measures of coercion, the action of the united fleets at the capital would be the most suitable step to take.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 93.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 4, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*
(Very Confidential.)

I HAVE told German Chargé d'Affaires that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to assent to urging upon the Porte an armistice of not less than a month.

No. 94.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4, at night.)

Vienna, October 4, 1876, 5·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BARON ORCZY informs me that your Lordship will have learnt yesterday from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that the Russian proposal for the occupation of the Turkish territory has been declined, and that Count Andrassy is of opinion that if it is necessary to enforce proposals of the Powers, a combined fleet should be sent to Constantinople for the purpose.

With respect to that measure I said to him it appeared to me that the Sultan could not expose himself to the risk of his subjects resenting his allowing a fleet to pass Dardanelles without resistance, and as the people of the capital believe the Straits cannot be forced, a hostile demonstration would probably be ineffectual, and the Powers would be obliged to carry out their menace, which might involve the loss of several vessels.

I suggested that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople is in a position, after Austria had declined to countenance occupation of Turkish territory, to claim in return the Porte's assent to an armistice which might prevent an European war; but he said that as the Turkish Ambassador already thinks Austria will be no party to coercive measures, the Porte might be confirmed in the opinion by Count Zichy taking credit for his Government opposing the occupation of the north Provinces.

Baron Orczy, however, told me confidentially that the Servians are so discouraged that they have again applied to Austria to promote peace; and he says that if the Turks could be brought to believe it, their assent to an armistice might make an arrangement of the other questions at issue easy. But I could not induce him to say what Count Andrassy thinks of Turkish concessions or of their being communicated by a note; but the Turkish Ambassador has informed me in strict confidence that when he acquainted his Excellency with the objections of the Porte to the signing a Protocol and the wording of your Lordship's proposals, he answered that the Porte should in that case submit counter proposals to the consideration of the Powers.

No. 95.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 34. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, reporting the movements of the Governor-General, and other details regarding local matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Consul Barker to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, September 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that for the last week his Excellency the Governor-General Réouf Pasha, has been visiting the districts where the soldiers and other labourers are employed making new roads leading to the Sphakian Mountains.

One of Hobart Pasha's steam yachts struck on a sunken rock near Grabusa, on the western part of the island, but was speedily got off without having sustained much damage.

The Deputy, M. Mizzotaki, who was sent to Constantinople by Réouf Pasha, and whose return here was promised by his Excellency, has not yet appeared, but is expected to arrive to-morrow by a Turkish vessel. An article in one of the Greek newspapers published at Athens, "Le Messager d'Athènes," animadverts very severely on this arbitrary act of our Governor-General, as being contrary to all precedent, and in violation of the sacred rights of a Deputy, and hints at his recall; but if the Porte should listen to such counsel it would be unfortunate for, by all accounts, Réouf Pasha is by far the best administrator Crete has ever had, in spite of this rash act of his, which, however, has not been followed by any evil consequence, and which, it is said, his Excellency has much regretted.

Mr. Consul Binney, from Syra, together with Mr. Foster, the Telegraph Agent at Zante, have been engaged during the last fortnight in taking up and repairing the submarine cables in this island wherever, in its vicinity, weak or defective portions have been signalled, and the lines to Alexandria, Rhodes, and Constantinople are now in perfect working order.

Messrs. Binney and Foster left this on Monday, the 18th instant, by the Austrian steamer, on their return to Syra and Zante.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—25th September.—M. Mizzotaki has returned, and has been received with boisterous acclamation and a kind of demonstration by his friends.

E. B. B. B.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 4, 1876, 9·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram, nothing can be more distinct than the terms in which I warned the Porte that no assistance was to be expected from Her Majesty's Government against an attack by Russia; and I have not seen nor had any communication with Halil Pasha for more than a month.

Public feeling here is, however, daily becoming more dangerous; and if the Turks, believing themselves abandoned by every one, give way to despair, it is impossible to say what the consequences may be.

* Repeated to Embassies.

Neither foreign occupation, nor naval demonstration, can be made without great danger.

No. 97.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 5.*)

St. Petersburgh, October 4, 1876, midnight.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Emperor of Russia has telegraphed for the Czarewitch; and His Imperial Highness leaves to-night for Livadia.

The departure of General Ignatiew for Constantinople has been postponed.

No. 98.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 5, 11·45 A.M.*)

Vienna, October 4, 1876, midnight.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs:—"Prince Nicholas seems to meditate no hostilities unless attacked. Austria is pressing His Highness to sever his action from that of Servia, and to conclude separate peace if necessary. French Consul does the same. Shall I follow suit? Prince told me this morning that if England would help him to get the port of Spitza, and consequently facilities for the free importation of foreign goods, Montenegro would be eternally grateful. He scouted the idea of its becoming a Russian port.

I am decidedly of opinion that generous treatment of Montenegro is Turkey's best policy with a view to the future tranquillity of the Herzegovina.

No. 99.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[*]

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 2·24 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN the event of the terms of peace proposed by the Powers being formally refused, you will press the Porte, as an alternative, to grant an armistice for not less than a month, stating that, in case of refusal, you have instructions to leave Constantinople, as it will then be evident that further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin have become useless.

You will, however, not take this step without reference home.

You are at liberty to state that, on the conclusion of an armistice, it is intended that a Conference shall immediately follow.

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.†

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has communicated to me a telegram from the Emperor of Russia to the following effect:—

The Emperor proposes to the Guaranteeing Powers that further bloodshed should be immediately arrested by imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I informed Count Schouvaloff, after the meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government have decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for basis of peace.

I have also told him that Her Majesty's Government have been unable to concur in

[*] Repeated to Embassies for confidential information, but not for communication.

† Repeated to Embassies.

the measures of occupation, and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus, which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

No. 101.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.[*]

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day to Lord A. Loftus, state to the Government to which you are accredited that Her Majesty's Government consider that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference, and have instructed Sir H. Elliot to intimate this to the Porte.

No. 102.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.†

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 2·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU may inform the Government to which you are accredited of the answer given to the Russian Government as reported in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus to-day.

No. 103.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent the following to Lord A. Loftus:—

[See No. 100.]

I have instructed Sir H. Elliot to press the Porte in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice, and you will join your colleagues, who will no doubt be similarly instructed in doing the same at Belgrade.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 5·8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WHENEVER you make the communication to the Porte directed by my telegram of this day, you will deliver an English copy and a French translation of the telegram down to the word "useless."

It is desired that your manner and language should be very earnest, for the consequences of a refusal by Turkey of these last overtures are incalculable.

You may show this telegram also.

No. 105.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 494.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD some conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon as to the fresh steps that are now being taken to procure an armistice between Turkey and Servia.

Understanding from what had fallen from his Excellency in previous conversations that the Russian Government would still view with favour the plan of a Conference to consider the means of arranging a permanent settlement, I told him that Her Majesty's Government would propose, in the event of the armistice being concluded, that a Conference

[*] Also sent to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Malet.

† Repeated to Berlin, Rome, and Paris.

should immediately follow; and that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was authorised to make this known to the Porte.

Count Schouvaloff appeared to think that this course would meet with the approval of his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 106.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 495.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 488 of the 4th instant, I have to request your Excellency to state to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government consider that the armistice should be immediately followed by a Conference, and that instructions in this sense have been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, for communication to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 623.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having instructed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade to communicate to their families the safe arrival at Salonica of eleven Servian prisoners, as reported in your No. 947 of the 2nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 624.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Greek Government communicated to me by M. Gennadius, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, protesting against a fresh arrival of Circassian colonists at Volo.*

I told M. Gennadius that I would call your Excellency's attention to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 109.

The Earl Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 627.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency, in the event of the terms of peace which have been proposed by the Powers being formally refused, to press upon the Porte as an alternative to grant an armistice for not less than a month, stating that you are instructed, in case of refusal, to leave Constantinople, as it will then be evident that all further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin will have become useless.

Before, however, resorting to this step your Excellency will again refer home for further instructions.

* No. 43.

Your Excellency is at liberty to inform the Porte that on the conclusion of an armistice it is proposed that a Conference shall immediately follow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 110.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 628.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency when you communicate to the Porte my telegram of to-day to deliver to the Minister an English copy, together with a French translation, down to the word "useless."

It is desired that your manner and language should be very earnest, for a consequence of the refusal of Turkey of these last overtures are incalculable.

Your Excellency may also communicate to the Porte the contents of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 111.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 625.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,‡ stating that the Emperor of Russia has proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that they should impose upon the Porte an armistice or truce of six weeks, and that Her Majesty's Government have replied, through Count Schouvaloff, that they will support at Constantinople the proposal for the conclusion of an armistice for not less than one month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the definitive rejection by the Porte of the terms of peace which have been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and supported by the other Powers; but that they cannot concur in the previous suggestion of Prince Gortchakow as to the occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia, and the entry of two fleets into the Bosphorus.

I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate the substance of this despatch to the Governor, and to state that Sir Henry Elliot has been directed to intimate to the Porte that if the terms of peace shall be rejected, and the armistice accepted, it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should immediately assemble.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 112.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 32.)
Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, desiring his Excellency to press the Porte in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice;‡ and I have to instruct you to join your colleagues, who will no doubt receive similar instructions, in doing the same at Belgrade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Malet.
† No. 100.
‡ No. 109.

No. 113.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a telegram from your Government protesting against M. Ristic's assertion that the Turks have violated the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 114.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 5, 1876, 4:30 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he has not replied to the Russian proposal to break off relations with the Porte if the armistice is refused, and before deciding what to do he would be glad to know your Lordship's views; he appears to wish to continue to follow lead of England.

No. 115.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 5, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

SULTAN received me in an official audience to-day, and I presented my letters of credence.

I had asked also for a private audience, but, as I was too unwell to avail myself of it, His Majesty will receive me to-morrow or Saturday, when I shall execute instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 572.

No. 116.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

(No. 177.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 23, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to add that, according to the views of several Hungarians here, who know Bulgaria, the true statistics of population will be found to be much nearer the estimate therein mentioned than to the estimate by my Bulgarian informant. And it appears that the Greeks are only a majority in about thirty districts or villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 117.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

(No. 178.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 24, 1876.*

BULGARIANS, to a large number, migrate every year in the spring to the Hungarian banks of the Danube, and in fact become the market gardeners of this capital, and many a place along the river. They are industrious, hardworking, in general orderly, and as a rule thrifty, and when they return to their native villages at the present time of the year, in order to sow their corn for spring, they often return with a considerable amount of savings.

Some of those now returning belong to families which, having been induced some

ten years ago to emigrate to the Crimea, had before 1870 all petitioned to the Porte to be re-established in Bulgaria, and in fact had returned thither.

These persons, as Sermed Effendi assures me, have not forgotten the unfortunate result of their attempt, under delusive inducements, to make better their condition, and have no wish to come under Russian Government.

If this be true of the several hundred families of returned emigrants scattered throughout Bulgaria, it may have helped to strengthen the opinion that the Russian is no great improvement upon the Turkish official.

So far as I can gather from persons here who are acquainted with Bulgaria, the main accusation that lies against the Porte is not that of the atrocities of the late massacre and its horrors, which have evoked an indignation, just, but often oblivious of the immediate causes, and which atrocities have at various times on opportunity darkly tinged every race, as well as the Osmanli in Turkey; but it is that of the atrocities of administration which are possible, and which not only impede progress and stamp down every upgrowth of culture, but even prevent the industrious Bulgarian from, as a rule, accumulating his savings and increasing in wealth.

On the other hand Bulgaria would seem, as I gather, to present a better field than Bosnia for the experiment of reform in local matters, inasmuch as the Christians of the same race and religion do outnumber the rest of the population; and as the land is not held in whole or greatest bulk by Mahometans. As long domicile is seldom known, and the conditions of society and relations of property are not so stable as in other lands, it might be practicable to carry out an actual separation of the population into purely Christian and purely Mahometan villages and districts, with civil and Mahometan tribunals respectively, and to effect the necessary exchange of land on equitable principles, under a law somewhat similar to that in Prussia for bringing the lands of a district into hotchpotch, and re-distributing them amongst the owners.

Then the fact of the beginning of a middle educated class in the towns and villages, of which little or no trace exists in Bosnia, would facilitate the experiment in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 118.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

(No. 179.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 25, 1876.*

SERMED EFFENDI informs me that from 500 to 800 Russian officers and soldiers pass through here every week, and that he has reported to his Government that some of them in the last week or two are said to have crossed into Bosnia to form a nucleus of insurrection.

As regards the latter averment, he seems to have considered the rumours and allegations in the journals and elsewhere to that effect to warrant a warning to his Government, but I had not hitherto mentioned them to your Excellency as they seemed to be without authentic confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 119.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

(No. 181. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 122 and 128 of July 28th and August 1 respectively, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, although I have not yet been able to meet with either of the Hungarian Ministers, who have just returned from Vienna, I am informed that M. Tisza does not conceal that he is now prepared to support a different policy in respect of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and to assent, as the better

alternative, to an occupation of the Turkish provinces in accordance with an opinion which he has for some time privately held.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 120.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 6.)

(No. 182. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 28, 1876.*

I HAD the honour yesterday evening of a conversation with M. de Tisza. When it touched upon events in Servia and Turkey his Excellency, as an expression of his merely personal opinion, said that, if a war broke out, it would be the fault of England; the fault in the first place of the persons there who, regardless of all other considerations, were for humane or other reasons kindling combustible materials which would set other nations in the flames of war, whilst they and their country kept out of the struggle; and in the next place of the Government allowing itself to be influenced by an excitement which ignored all political reasoning. When the humane people have forced a war upon us, "What will the support of England be worth? It may only mean that they and she will leave us 'clans in bone.'" If with the support of Europe (with or without Russia) an occupation of the Turkish Provinces by Austria-Hungary took place for purposes of pacification and the real introduction of reforms, it might be successfully carried out, and might prevent an European war. "But as long as England was acting with Russia, and Italy joined them, any general understanding was impossible: in any case we may be obliged to occupy them not for ourselves but to prevent any possible enemy from coming into them." And his Excellency, being personally opposed to allowing the Russians to occupy Bulgaria, evidently contemplated the necessity of occupying Bulgaria and Servia as well as Bosnia.

I remarked that, no doubt, truly humane motives had caused the uprising of the popular excitement in England, and that Her Majesty's Government naturally sympathized with the humanity which underlay the natural feeling, whilst at the same time they did not, as, indeed, Lord Derby's speech showed, ignore the political aspects of the issues raised between Christian and Mussulman, between Europe and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 121.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 233. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I called yesterday upon the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that in the course of conversation I asked him what impression the late expression of public opinion in England with regard to Turkey had produced in Greece.

M. Contostavlos replied that, on the one hand, it had created a favourable impression, as it showed that England sympathised with the Christians under Turkish rule, but that, on the other hand, it had created a very painful feeling, as the cause of these Christians only who had risen in revolt had been advocated, while the suffering condition of the others had not been noticed; and he further remarked that the people of Greece and her Government were now found fault with by the Greeks in the Turkish Provinces, and by the Cretans, for having advised them to abstain from joining in any insurrectionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 122.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 234. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 26, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 233 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs called upon me this morning, and spoke to me at some length as to what he understood was now the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the complications which have arisen in European Turkey.

He expressed very much astonishment and disappointment at seeing the cause of the Slavs taken up so warmly by England, as well as by Russia, remarking that Russia, in advocating the granting of the right of self-government to the Slav Provinces of Turkey, only did so with a view of having a number of small States under her influence.

I replied that the public in England were urging the adoption of certain measures, but that we did not yet know for certain what it was that Her Majesty's Government advocated, but that, at any rate, I was sure that Her Majesty's Government had the interests of all the Christian races in Turkey at heart, and that they had given proof of that by giving their support to the reforms proposed by Count Andrassy for the amelioration of the condition of the Christians in Turkey.

M. Contostavlos answered that all the information he had lately received led him to believe that Her Majesty's Government was recommending, or would recommend, the granting of autonomy to the Slav Provinces of Turkey.

Judging by M. Contostavlos' language to me on this subject, there appears to be much disappointment felt by the Greek Government and in Greece at no special notice having been taken in England of the Greek Provinces in Turkey; and I may mention to your Lordship that M. Contostavlos concluded his observations to me to-day by observing that the Russian press was now advocating the cause of the Greeks; and he stated that M. de Sabouroff had yesterday called his attention to this fact, and had referred, if I recollect rightly, especially to an article recently published in the "Golos."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 123.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 26, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inclose, herewith, to your Lordship an extract from a private letter addressed to me by the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he informs me of a further arrival of Circassians at Volo, and begs me to bring this fact to the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

I saw M. Contostavlos yesterday, and I asked him what reply the Turkish Government had given to M. Condouriotti, who had, I believed, brought the recent arrival of Circassian families at Volo to the notice of the Porte. M. Contostavlos said that Safvet Pasha had stated that owing to pressure of business he had forgotten to communicate to the Minister of Police the decision of the Council prohibiting any more families of Circassians being sent to Thessaly.

The Greek Government do not, however, attach much faith to the assurances of the Porte on this matter, as they are under the impression that the Government of the Sultan is desirous of introducing into Thessaly a population which will tend to alter the character of the nationality of that Province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 123.

M. Contostavlos to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Athens, September* 23, 1876.

C'EST avec un profond regret que je dois vous signaler de nouveau un second envoi de Circassiens à Volos, dont notre Consul n'a pas pu encore vérifier le nombre. Malgré toutes ses promesses la Porte poursuit donc l'exécution de son plan avec une effronterie vraiment surprenante. Je vous serais extrêmement obligé si vous auriez voulu en faire part à votre Gouvernement.

No. 124.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 26, 1876.

MY attention having been lately called to a statement in the Greek newspaper the "Stoa" to the effect that the Porte had refused to recognize Greek Consuls appointed to certain towns in Albania and Macedonia, I yesterday asked M. Contostavlos what truth there was in this report. He replied that the Greek Government had wished to appoint Consuls at Berat, Argyrocastro, and Koritza, in Albania; that the Porte had granted exequaturs to the Consuls to the two first-named places, but had refused to grant one for Koritza on the ground that there were no Greek interests to protect there. M. Contostavlos said that there had been no question of making further Consular appointments in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 125.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Octobre,* 1876.

IL nous revient de plusieurs côtés que des pourparlers ont lieu entre les Puissances pour combiner une occupation militaire de certaines parties de l'Empire. Les Autrichiens occuperaient la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, la Russie la Bulgarie, et les flottes de l'Angleterre et de la France réunies viendraient mouiller dans le Bosphore. Nous nous refusons à croire que l'Europe puisse se prêter à une telle mesure; mais il nous paraît difficile de nier le fait des négociations. Ainsi la Turquie, qui a usé d'une modération, j'ose dire sans exemple dans l'histoire, à l'égard de son vassal révolté, et a fait taire son juste ressentiment, et jusqu'aux suggestions de sa propre sécurité pour s'incliner devant les conseils de l'Europe, verrait, en retour de tant de désintéressement et d'esprit de conciliation, son territoire envahi par les armes des Puissances unies et alliées, et cela juste au moment où, sous les regards de l'Europe, elle se prépare à doter le pays d'institutions destinées à étendre à tout l'Empire les bienfaits que les Puissances avaient en vue pour quelques unes seulement de ses provinces; et c'est parceque la Turquie n'a pas accepté, et n'acceptera jamais, une pareille distinction qu'on veut lui infliger cette démonstration. Quel intérêt trouve-t-elle, l'Europe, à préparer cette catastrophe pour notre pays à cause de la non-acceptation d'un simple mot, dont nous voulons réaliser la signification, telle qu'elle nous a été suggérée? Avant de se lancer dans cette voie, au bout de laquelle elle ne peut voir que de terribles complications pour elle-même, ne ferait-elle pas mieux d'attendre pour voir de quelle manière nous réaliserons nos promesses?

Si le projet qu'on attribue aux Gouvernements venait à se réaliser, la Turquie n'aurait à opposer aux forces des Puissances que l'évidence de son droit et les actes signés par elles.

Si la Sublime Porte a pu oublier qu'elle a été victorieuse dans la provocation, elle ne oubliera pas qu'elle est encore un Etat indépendant, et qu'elle se doit à elle-même de préférer la mort honorable au démembrement at au partage de ses Etats.

Veuillez-vous énoncer dans le sens de cette dépêche auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 126.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876, 5 P.M.

YOU may tell Italian Government that Her Majesty's Government have expressed no opinion up to the present time as to the course to be pursued in case of the armistice being refused by Turkey.

No. 127.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 481.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and asked me for an explanation of the events which have taken place in the last few days in relation to Eastern affairs. He was acquainted with the Russian proposition of a joint naval demonstration at Constantinople, coupled with a Russian occupation of Bulgaria and an Austrian occupation of Bosnia, but he did not know how this proposition had been received by Her Majesty's Government.

I told him that I had been unable to give Count Schouvaloff a definitive reply on the subject until after the Cabinet which was held on Wednesday last; but that I had from the first pointed out to him the grave inconveniences and dangers involved in the Russian proposal. The passage of the fleets through the Dardanelles was in any case a violation of Treaties, and if resisted by the Porte, as it reasonably might be, it was an act of war; and the same observation applied to any occupation of Turkish territory by foreign troops. I had subsequently, in accordance with the opinion of my colleagues, informed Count Schouvaloff that Her Majesty's Government could not approve, or be parties to, any part of the proposed scheme; and it had been agreed upon between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia that another method should be adopted of extricating ourselves and all the Powers from the difficulty in which we are placed by the refusal of the Porte to consent to the basis of peace proposed. I had accordingly instructed Sir H. Elliot to press strongly for an armistice of not less than a month, with the view that, when granted, it should be followed by a Conference in which the nature of the reforms necessary for the protection of the subject populations of Turkey might be discussed. To this demand, which had been made only within the last thirty-six hours, I had not yet received a reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 128.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Guarracino.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, replying to certain charges made against you in the "Daily News."

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 129.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1876, 5·25 P.M.

ARE Her Majesty's Government to expect any further and definite answer to the proposals made to the Porte for the basis of peace?

The only answer we have had has been a telegram from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 30th ultimo, and communicated by Musurus on the 2nd instant.

Have you received any formal notice of the result of the meetings of the Grand Council?

No. 130.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 630.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to hear from you whether they may expect any further definite answer to the proposals made by them to the Porte for the basis of peace.

Up to the present time, the only answer which has been received by them is the communication on the 2nd instant of a telegram received by Musurus Pasha from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 30th ultimo.

Her Majesty's Government also wish to know whether any formal notice has been sent to your Excellency by the Porte of the result of the meetings of the Grand Council.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 131.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 5·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 6, 1876, 3·25 P.M.*

FOREIGN Minister says that fresh instances of mutilation of Servian wounded are reported from head-quarters, and expressed desire that the Consular body should send down some one to view these bodies. I have told him that distance is considerable, and that the Servian General might send to Turkish Commander-in-chief and to Sir A. Kemball, with a view to making representations. I have informed him that I should likewise report to Her Majesty's Government this circumstance.

Foreign Minister assures me he is most desirous of armistice, provided it is formally concluded as such matters ought to be.

No. 132.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 6·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 6, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated the information in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, addressed to Lord A. Loftus. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to continue to support Sir H. Elliot.

No. 133.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 6·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 6, 1876, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has information from General Menabrea, obtained from Count Schouvaloff, stating that your Lordship's answer was to the effect that you could only threaten to withdraw from further interference if the armistice were refused, as the interests of England did not permit (her to?) disengage herself from the course of events, and that you were disposed to favour the idea of a Conference. This is more complete than intelligence which I gave this morning, and the instruction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to continue to support Sir H. Elliot is founded on idea that he is to propose a Conference.

No. 134.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 6, 1876.*

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams to Lord A. Loftus of yesterday to General Bülow.

In thanking your Lordship for this communication, his Excellency said that he would at once inform Prince Bismarck, who is still in the country.

No. 135.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 621.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the telegram from his Government, of which I inclose a copy,* protesting against the proposal which they understood had been made for a military occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and for the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

I told Musurus Pasha that Her Majesty's Government had refused their assent to the measures of occupation suggested by Russia, and had also objected to the proposal that the fleets should enter the Bosphorus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 136.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1876.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs,† communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, in which is inclosed a report presented to the military authorities by Dr. Zoëros, Director of the Sanitary Department of the army of Podgoritza, giving a list of soldiers who had been horribly mutilated by the Montenegrins.

I inclose also copy of a despatch which was received in the course of last month from Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari,‡ in which he states that he had seen in hospital nine Turkish soldiers, who, after having been wounded in battle, had been brutally mutilated, and that there was every reason to believe that the men he saw had not been subjected to exceptional treatment, but that most of the wounded and dead in the battlefield of Medun had been treated with similar atrocity.

As the report now officially received from the Porte merely confirms the statements previously made by an impartial and trustworthy eye-witness, there can be little doubt that it is substantially correct, and that outrages have been committed by the Montenegrins on helpless men on the field of battle, which are a disgrace to humanity.

Your presence at Cettigné enables Her Majesty's Government to make known to the Prince the feelings with which they have read the reports submitted to them, and I should therefore wish you to state to him that, if the war should continue, it cannot be too strongly urged upon him that he should use every effort to induce his subjects to refrain from acts of cruelty, which cannot but alienate the sympathies of civilized nations, and seriously discredit his own reputation.

No. 137.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·11 P.M.*

I AM assured by one of my colleagues that the German Ambassador and the members of his Embassy speak openly of the expediency of Russia being allowed not only to occupy

* No. 126. † No. 41. ‡ See Part V of Correspondence, No. 486.

Bulgaria, but to advance to Constantinople, as the Emperor Alexander has disclaimed any intention of annexing Turkish territory to his Empire.

The Ambassador professes to me that he is without instructions on the subject, but he lately asked me in a private conversation why England should object to the freedom of the Dardanelles and to European Turkey being replaced by several independent Christian States.

I hesitate to report this private conversation, but feel it necessary to do so in consequence of above-mentioned statement of my colleagues, which increases my apprehension that if the Ambassadors leave Constantinople, what I saw in 1827 will happen again, and that their departure will be followed a few days afterwards by a Russian declaration of war.

No. 138.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 6, 7·45 P.M.*)

Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·26 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Lord A. Loftus, and with your having instructed Sir H. Elliot to inform Porte that it is intended that the armistice asked for shall be followed by a Conference.

His Excellency said he cannot assent to take a part in a Conference until he knows how it is to be composed and the objects which it is proposed to obtain from it, and in the present state of things he can only anticipate its leading to abortive or dangerous results. Is Turkey, he asked, to be represented in the Conference, and if she is not is it probable that she will agree to carry out its decisions?

If therefore it is intended to propose an ultimatum to be submitted to Porte the Governments must be prepared to use force to impose it, and in the present temper of the Turkish Government and the excitement of the Russian nation, he fears whatever decision may be taken will inevitably lead to war.

On the general question he expressed strong opinions against expediency of asking for concessions which the Porte cannot grant, instead of being satisfied with moderate measures which could be easily carried out. It is clear, he said, that every step in advance beyond what is absolutely necessary, on the part of one of the Powers will be followed by a further one on the part of another Power, as England's adding new administrative institutions for Bulgaria to her demands on the Porte was immediately followed up by Russia proposing to occupy Bulgaria.

No. 139.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 6.*)

Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·27 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

"With reference to my telegram of this morning, Prince Nicholas says that in view of his difficult situation with his chiefs, who desire resumption of hostilites, he implores the Great Powers to bring about a definite armistice."

No. 140.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 6, 8·30 P.M.*)

Vienna, October 6, 1876, 6·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson:—

"At the request of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Nicholas consents to remain on the defensive, and to victual fortress of Medun for three days.

"His Highness is resisting firmly pressure of certain Montenegrins to resume offensive. Russian Agent has suddenly become moderate.

"All my colleagues report to their Governments in favour of concessions to Montenegro."

No. 141.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 6, at night.*)

Paris, October 6, 1876, 7·43 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will send to Constantinople and Belgrade instructions to support energetically the demand for an armistice. He concurs in opinion that it should be followed by a Conference.

He appears glad that Her Majesty's Government have not agreed to occupation of territory, or the entrance of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

No. 142.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 66.)

Scutari, September 26, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Acting Russian Consul, having communicated to me a report that had reached him, that the Orthodox Church at Spuz had been desecrated by the Turkish irregular soldiers, who had also exhumed the body of a priest who had recently died, and had cut it up in pieces, and then scattered them in the streets at Spuz, I at once took steps to ascertain how far my Russian colleague had been correctly informed, with the intention, should the story prove true, of bringing it under the serious notice of the Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha.

The correspondents of the "Daily News" and "Standard," to whom I have addressed myself, have, however, assured me that, although they had made it their especial duty to examine into the matter whilst at Spuz, they had been unable to find that there was the slightest foundation for it.

Nevertheless, I need hardly assure your Lordship that, every time a case of savagery or insubordination on the part of the Turkish soldiery occurs in this province, I lose no time in drawing to it the attention of the military authorities; and it is certain that, whatever the private inclinations of the latter might lead them to permit, their instructions from the Porte are so stringent, that they evince the greatest anxiety to suppress all acts that tend to bring the Turkish name into bad repute.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 143.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 68.)

Scutari, September 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the evening of the 28th instant, Mr. Speyer, my Russian colleague, wrote me a note, informing me that Spuz and the Koutchi district had been handed over to the Montenegrins, and that their flag was now floating over both these localities, peace having been concluded with Turkey.

Next morning I found that all my colleagues had been favoured by Mr. Speyer with the same news, and he gave most minute details how the transfer of the fortress of Spuz had been effected from the Turkish to the Montenegrin military authorities. The news created the most profound sensation in Scutari, and the Governor-General sent to inquire of me what I knew of it, as he had received no communication on the subject from the Porte.

Early to-day it was, however, ascertained that Mr. Speyer had been deceived by one of his Slav friends in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza, who had probably invented the story about the cession of territory under the hope—which appears to have been well-founded—of receiving a larger reward than usual for the conveyance of information from the Turkish head-quarters.

As I had occasion to see many of my Mohammedan friends whilst the news was still believed, I was able to see that the conclusion of peace was most ardently wished for by all classes, and that the cession of territory to Montenegro was looked upon as a necessity which the chances of war had made unavoidable; indeed, some of the Albanian Moslems, who had taken a share in the recent battles, expressed relief at no greater concessions having had to be made.

I have ventured to report to your Lordship the mistake made by Mr. Speyer, as the insight it has afforded of the manner in which the natives are prepared to receive unfavourable news may not be quite without use hereafter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 144.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 171. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 28, 1876.*

M. DE WESSILITZKY, who has been serving in the Montenegrin army, is here on his way to Odessa, to purchase grain for the support of the Herzegovinian refugees in Montenegro (?)

The Prince, he says, has told him to buy as much as he can, but he could not explain to me where the purchase-money is to come from.

Neither could he tell me how many refugees there are at this moment in Montenegro. He had heard that there were about 44,000.

The Russian Acting Consul-General told me yesterday that there were over 60,000 refugees in Montenegro; whereas M. Durando says, that in the three weeks during which he accompanied the Prince he saw hardly any, and should have said that there were not more than 3,000 or 4,000.

At any rate, large supplies are to be purchased; for a Montenegrin official is going on the same errand as M. de Wessilitzky.

As to the latter, when I recollect the importance which was formerly attached to him, I cannot refrain from stating to your Lordship that all sorts of ridiculous stories are current as to his braggadoccio conduct in camp. He adopted the Montenegrin costume in all its splendour, but was distinguished by no other "bravery;" and the valour of which he boasted was tempered with so large an amount of discretion, as to provoke the Prince's *entourage* into the perpetration of a succession of practical jokes at the expense of the amateur diplomatist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 145.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 172. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Stillman, at Cettigné, and which is dated the 25th instant.

M. Durando having received analogous information from the Prince's Secretary, telegraphed to Rome (as I did yesterday to your Lordship through Vienna), his apprehensions about the antagonistic diplomacy of M. Yonine. He was glad to find that, without any communication with him, I had taken similar action.

M. Durando says that, until a durable armistice is signed, the Prince's position with his troops is one of great difficulty. They are hard to keep in hand; and a heavy Russian bribe might tempt one of the Voivodes into an act that would compromise the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Mr. Stillman to Mr. Monson.

Cettigné, September 25, 1876.

(Extract.)

WE are doing our best here to keep things straight. We have got the worst enemy shunted off the track, but unfortunately we have not another engine to put on. Durando

was only partial, as his Government is not a dominant one. We have had a hard fight to get the Prince to accept the prolongation of the suspension of arms. Thömmel, Ceccaldi and the non-officials and amateurs against the Russians. Yonine is fire-eating; it is his only chance of keeping up his influence, or rather regaining it. If you were here with intelligent orders from your Government we should do all that is desirable.

The Turks are perfectly helpless on both sides. Moukhtar unable to move without a running fight, and Dervish's army utterly demoralised. Moukhtar is on the frontier at Zasslap; his advanced guard in an awkward fix, an hour or two or more towards the position of Grahowatz.

The Grand Vizier has asked permission to send provisions into Medun, the Prince replying by offering to send them himself.

No. 146.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 173. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 28, 1876.*

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan, authorizing me to visit Prince Nicholas; and instructing me to tell His Highness that Her Majesty's Government has proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo* as regards Montenegro; and to use all my influence in favour of pacific counsels.

I beg to assure your Lordship that I will do my best to justify the confidence which has thus been reposed in me by Her Majesty's Government.

I intend to start by the steamer of to-morrow morning for Cattaro; and hope to arrive at Cettigné on the afternoon of the 30th.

M. Durando, the Italian Agent, will probably follow me in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

MR. JOCELYN has carried out the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram of last evening, and he has given a copy of it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I trust to be well enough to-morrow to be received by the Sultan.

No. 148.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1876, 11 P.M.*

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions by telegraph, I informed to-day Minister for Foreign Affairs of the intended proposal of a Conference to follow immediately on acceptance of an armistice.

Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated confidentially that his Government declines proposal of occupation of Bosnia, but would participate in naval demonstration.

I cannot learn that any approval or disapproval of Russian occupation of Bulgaria was expressed.

No. 149.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

UNDER present circumstances it might be desirable that we should have in the Danube the second gun-boat that we are entitled to station there.

The chairman of the Black Sea Railway Company has asked me for protection for the British subjects at Kustendji, and a gun-boat near to Danube end of the railway might afford them some security if a necessity should arise.

I shall, however, await your Lordship's opinion before applying to the Admiral.

No. 150.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7, 3·21 P.M.)

Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Bucharest:—

"Porte has received telegram from Ibraila, dated yesterday, stating that Russia has concentrated 160,000 men on the frontier, and that she is in treaty with the Roumanian administration of railways for the transport of 3,000 men a-day into Moldavia.

"Please ascertain what truth there is in this report."

No. 151.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7, 2·8 P.M.)

Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IS it too late to separate the question of the conclusion of peace with the Principalities from that of the arrangements for the insurgent Provinces, which will cause the chief difficulty?

It would be very desirable if the preliminaries at least could be signed without waiting for Conference.

No. 152.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7, 1·40 P.M.)

Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·45 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AS telegraphed to your Lordship on the 2nd instant, the decisions of the General Council will be officially communicated by note to the Embassies.

This official communication is expected every moment, but your Lordship's demand for an armistice, which was communicated to Porte yesterday, may possibly delay it.

No. 153.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

Vienna, October 7, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated to this Government a telegram declaring that the entrance of a fleet into the Dardanelles would be resisted.

I said to-day to Baron Grezy that I had heard from Rome that Russia has proposed a rupture of diplomatic relations with Porte if an armistice (is?) refused; and he answered no proposal of the kind had been made here, but the Italian Minister says that it was his Government who suggested that such a measure should be tried previous to the of a naval demonstration.

The arrival of the Hereditary Grand Duke at Livadia, and General Ignatiew's detention there, cause some anxiety here.

No. 154.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 625.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the Memorandum which your Excellency placed in the hands of the Porte on the answer to be returned by them to the proposal for peace

advocated by Her Majesty's Government, a copy of which is contained in your despatch No. 1063 of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 155.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 75. Political.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, inclosed for the information of your Lordship, copies of my despatches Nos. 111 and 114, to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of their inclosures, relative to the increase of crime, and to the temper of the Mahommedan population in my Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,

Salonica, September 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the extract from a letter which I have received from Monastir relative to the increase of crime and insecurity in that province, as reported by me to your Excellency in my cyphered telegram of the 9th instant.

There is a rumour that no less than sixty villages have been pillaged in district of Prisrend by Albanian irregulars returning from the seat of war. I cannot say if there is any truth in it, but I believe the attention of the Porte has been called to the bad state of affairs in Prisrend by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, who is said to have received a Report on the subject from his Vice-Consul there. And I learn that the Porte is sending out a Commissioner to make an inquiry and report upon the licentious conduct of these irregulars in that district.

Prisrend is under the jurisdiction of the Pashalik of Monastir.

So long as the Porte neglects to send a more energetic and trustworthy Pasha to direct the administration of the Vilayet of Monastir we must expect the continuance of the evils which are described by my correspondent, and which from day to day appear to assume a more dangerous character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Extract of a Letter from Monastir.

Monastir, September 7, 1876.

LATELY the house of Christo Hanji, in the village of Tourbeli, in the Province of Bitolia (Monastir), has been broken into by about forty or fifty brigands. Christo Hanji himself along with his wife and his children they murdered, and stripped the house of every available piece of furniture, even to the very mats on the floor. A thing hitherto unknown in our parts, the brigands were headed by a trumpeter like the soldiers.

From Koritza there were some muleteers who were in the habit of visiting here, but who now, on account of the Bashi-Bazouks, have not appeared for two months.

In their place some Mahommedan muleteers began to come, but yesterday even those the brigands stripped naked, taking from them four horses, and about 200*l.*

On account of these things on the road, no one dares come and purchase merchandise. Business is at a standstill. People are even afraid to come out of their houses.

Dimos Joseph of Kirtzobo, who was member of the Local Council, and a merchant much esteemed, was killed in his own magazine. More at Demisar-Kalé, in village Balman, Province of Monastir, some brigands from Dibra came and surrounded the village and took sixty oxen and forty cows, and then returned freely to Dibra.

The local authorities did not pursue them a step. Here the authorities do not pursue the brigands at all, so that day by day things go from bad to worse.

A monastery of Kirtzobo in village of Boritz was plundered by the Albanians.

They killed the abbot and took away all the vessels and furniture of the church and of the monastery, and also all the cattle.

The Bishop of Kirtzobo is here at present, and is very indignant because all the peasants of his diocese suffer very much from the Mahommedans, so much that not a peasant will load his horse to go to the mill in order to grind a little wheat. They will meet him on the road and take both his horse and his flour.

But this is not so much to be wondered at, seeing that the Turks, great and small, go about the market armed and with freedom.

Inclosure 3 in No. 155.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, September 25, 1876.

Sir,

ON the 21st instant I addressed to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"I returned yesterday evening from the interior.

"From inquiries I made at Useup, Pristina and Mitrovitza stations on the 19th instant among Mahommedans and Christians who had left district of Prisrend 18th instant, it appears the report about the pillage of sixty villages in that district is false."

I left Salonica on the 18th and returned on the 21st, going and returning by a special train which was placed by the Railway Company at the disposal of the Pasha of Salonica for his journey to Kuprculi, Useup, and Mitrovitza, where he had business to transact with the military authorities.

I gladly availed myself of the Pasha's offer to accompany him on his trip, as it afforded me an opportunity of seeing something of the interior, and of making personal inquiries respecting the state of affairs at Prisrend—which is included in my Consular district—more especially in connection with the report of the pillages of sixty villages in that province. (The German Consul, Count Beust, was also of the party.)

I am satisfied from the information which I obtained at Useup and the intermediate stations, and which was corroborated by Nousret Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the the troops at Mitrovitza (in whose word I have every confidence) and by Mahommedan and Christian peasants who had left Prisrend the day before I met them, that the above report was fabricated to serve a purpose, like so many other stories which have been palmed off for facts upon the public in Europe to gratify their morbid horror of the Turks.

But on the other hand there appears to be a lamentable increase of crime in the interior, especially in the vilayet of Monastir, which includes some of the most turbulent Albanian districts.

Bands of robbers infest the country in greater numbers than before, and the Albanians of Dibra, in particular, harass and plunder their neighbours with impunity.

The following extracts of letters, which I have received from the interior, illustrate the extent of insecurity which prevails in these parts:—

"*Monastir, September* 21, 1876.

"Murders are daily perpetrated in this province, and the authorities are very negligent, and take no measures to prevent the evil from growing worse.

"Last week I informed you of the robberies and murders committed by the Albanian marauders from Dibra. I now hear that at Perlepé the Christian Glegorios Danos Dimtzos was shot dead by a Mahommedan the 16th instant; and two other Christians, one from the village of Boutzia, and the other from Crostarzi, were murdered by Mahommedans. Also the Christian Giorgios Baltnajis from Blatz, about an hour from the town of Koritza, was attacked and killed by robbers."

An English gentleman who has been three years in the interior writes to me as follows from Niausta, a district of Macedonia:—

"*Niausta, Monday morning, September* 18, 1876.

"There is a band of brigands in this neighbourhood composed of Albanian Turks and Greeks, sixteen in number (some say twenty-two). They have come from the direction of Mount Olympus.

"From what I hear they appeared first at Shell (a mountain district), where they got supplies. From there they went down to the plain as far as Sinvros forest, and four days ago they were seen at a ruined village about three hours from here, in the hills. Yesterday morning they carried off Alizoti Bey, the proprietor of a large farm called Arkoodshori, one hour's distance from this town, in the direction of Veria. He is an Albanian Mahommedan. The brigands are supposed to have carried off their captive towads Shell, and away beyond.

"The head of the police here, with one or two policemen (there are only six quartered here), and some fifteen of the inhabitants started in pursuit. But it is very improbable that they will meet with the brigands.

"I saw the sub-Governor (Mudir), who seemed much disturbed by the news. It is very difficult to get people to leave their vineyards at this time to go after brigands, even on promise of payment.

"It does seem a great drawback to a place like Niausta, with all its advantages, that there should always be a feeling of uneasiness, not to say insecurity, among the inhabitants. I suppose the place will be quiet for a time, until the brigands appear again, and make another raid."

The capture of Alizoti Bey, for whose ransom the brigands demand 2,000*l.*, has caused great sensation among the Turkish proprietors in the country, and it is apprehended that further outrages will be perpetrated by this band, which I hear has been recruited by, and is under the leadership of, a certain Thoma, a notorious robber chief who very recently escaped from Greece.

The following extracts also furnish some information on the state of affairs in Thessaly and Epirus:—

"*Vice-Consul Sutter to Consul Blunt.*

"*Larissa, September* 19, 1876.

"Last week some squabbles which occurred between soldiers and the Christians at Tirnova were most unjustifiably and ridiculously attempted to be magnified into a 'disposition to revolt' on the part of the latter, by the military and the subordinate authorities in that place; and some excitement was created by the arbitrary imprisonment of several respectable and innocent people.

"In the present temper of the Turks it is not surprising that affairs of this kind should happen, and during the Ramazan especially—which has just been entered—and with idle and ill-disciplined troops, quartered in all directions, they must be expected to recur. But they have no serious character; nor, with the vigilance always exercised by the chief military authorities, do I see reason to apprehend that they can lead to any serious disturbance of the quiet we have enjoyed, and which continues to prevail, in Thessaly.

"An alarm was spread some days ago that Caloyeros, with his brigands, had crossed from Kattrina, near Allasona, and taken up a position near Palamá. Troops and police were sent, and have returned after beating the country without finding any trace of the band.

"The Governor here was recently at Armyro, near the Greek frontier, to locate the batch of Circassians which was imported into Thessaly in May last, and temporarily distributed at Velestino. Remonstrances against their misemployment have led to their transfer to Armyro, where their presence will be no less unwelcome to their new neighbours, Mahommedans as well as Christians; and the Greek Consul informs me that his Government is repeating constant energetic protests against the introduction of this obnoxious element near to its border."

"*Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.*

"*Prevesa, September* 16, 1876.

"From M. Kipriotis I heard the other day that not a single revolver, cartridge, &c., is to be had at Janina, as three days ago (he writes on the 7th instant) the Turks had bought the whole of them; and further, that the Christians are in great dread of being massacred by the Turks, owing to the above; and also on account of frequent nocturnal meetings held by the latter. But what I suspect is, that the events at Salonica, and more especially those in Bulgaria, have made the Christians somewhat nervous; and, as far as I am able to judge, I see no inclination on the part of the Turks to massacre anybody; and, on the contrary, the authorities, whenever an opportunity presents itself, are ever ready to take the most stringent measures to prevent any act of violence from being committed.

"This certainly takes place at Prevesa, but, at the same time, I must say that I am not in a position to state that this is executed all over the province; or that what M. Kipriotis reports is not worthy of being taken into consideration."

I also very much regret having to report that serious outrages and murders of an agrarian character have been recently perpetrated in the immediate vicinity of Salonica. I inclose the correspondence I have received on the subject from Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, a British firm in this place. Some of their property has been wilfully burnt, causing a loss estimated by them at 600*l.*

I have addressed strong representations to the Pasha of Salonica in respect to this state of affairs, and warned him that if the guilty parties were not promptly apprehended and severely punished, I should consider the authorities responsible for the damages claimed by Messrs. Abbott.

His Excellency has ordered the district Governor to go to the spot, and to make an inquiry, and take measures for the apprehension of these outrages; but I do not anticipate that the action of the authorities, notwithstanding the pressure I am using, will meet with success.

The fact is the provincial authorities have not sufficient means of repression at their disposal.

The interior of this part of Turkey, with the exception of Thessaly and Epirus, is altogether denuded of troops, these having been despatched to the theatre of hostilities. Nor can the authorities or inhabitants rely much for assistance and protection on the local police, which, never very efficient in numbers or discipline, are now chiefly engaged in executing military requisitions. Thus the inhabitants are almost as the mercy of the criminal classes, the number of which is being largely reinforced, not only by disappointed Bashi-Bazouks, who have been dismissed from the armies operating in Servia, but by hundreds of convicts, who were released on the accession of Sultans Murad and Hamid.

These adventurers and ruffians are ready to rally round any determined chief or chiefs who may be enticed by the present critical state of affairs, and the growing weakness of the provincial administration, to undertake marauding expeditions on a large scale.

This is a very dangerous state of affairs, and I need not point out how it might be made use of by designing parties to fan the national and religious passions of the Turks and Christians.

Already I observe signs that the Mahommedan mind is disturbed and very irritated by the rumours that are artfully propagated that they are threatened with expulsion from Europe.

If once this impression gains force among the people, and they are brought to imagine that the Christian Powers, including the British Government, will join in a crusade against them, their fanaticism may be awakened to a degree which may endanger the safety of the entire Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 155.

Correspondence with Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

ON Tuesday, 12th instant, at about 11 o'clock, P.M., two Turks armed, and on horseback, surprised sleeping one shepherd at Amatova, seized him, took his arms, and carried away six of his sheep.

The day before yesterday, at about noon, and ten minutes' distant from where this robbery took place, in the grounds of our neighbouring village Vardarotzia, a young man was shot dead by a Turk, for no other known reason except that he was a Christian.

Moreover, the maize-fields of Vardarotzia are crowded with Bashi-Bozouks, who desolate all the country round.

In stating these facts, we must add, that one Mr. Alfred Abbott, went out, and verified them himself; and he finds that our properties are no longer habitable on account of these continual unceasing crimes.

We think it our duty to bring these facts to your knowledge, protesting at the same time against whom it may regard.

Consul Blunt to Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

I have just received your letter of this date, and shall at once represent your complaint to the authorities, and urge that immediate steps be taken to seize and punish the guilty parties.

As I shall also report on the subject to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, you would oblige me if you put me in possession of any further details you may obtain in respect to these or other outrages perpetrated in the vicinity of your properties.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 16, 1876.

Immediately after sending to the Consulate our communication of this morning, on the subject of the crimes committed at Amatova, we received the following afflicting news from our property, Cavalar:—

On the evening of last Thursday, Carayorian, Primate of the village, with his wife, were murdered, and their house robbed.

General opinion there points out as the assassins two Turks, who, protected by the Tchaoush of Lungada, named Veli, were openly and for some time going from village to village trafficking in contraband tobacco.

Messrs. R. Abbott and Sons to Consul Blunt.

Salonica, September 21, 1876.

On Thursday, 14th instant, another Christian was murdered by the Turks in the village Bontzli, part of which belongs to us.

Also on Saturday night, the 16th instant, fire was set to our property at Amatova, which destroyed our stables, with two horses, and four magazines containing cereals and divers implements belonging to us. The whole loss we think must amount to about 600 Turkish pounds; a detailed account of which we hope soon to receive from our Superintendent.

We consider, Sir, the Turkish authorities responsible for all these crimes, and ask them to pay us at once the material loss that this fire has caused us, protesting, at the same time, against the continual assassinations which are being committed by the Turks in our properties.

No. 156.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 239. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 30, 1876.

IN my despatch No. 228 of the 15th instant, and in despatches which I have since had the honour of addressing to your Lordship, I have endeavoured to report on the feeling created in Greece by the expressions of public opinion in England with regard to Turkey, and in my above-mentioned despatch I ventured to remark that if the public in Greece learn that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria are to be granted the right of self-government an agitation will commence in the country with a view of obtaining a like concession for the Provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

That agitation has now commenced in earnest, and a meeting is announced for to-morrow, at which Messrs. Paparigopoulo, Kokkinis, and Damalas, Professors of the University, are to speak, and are, I am told, to advocate the cause of the Christians in Crete, and in the Turkish provinces bordering upon Greece.

I have the honour to inclose, herewith, for your Lordship's information, translation, by Mr. Beauclerk, of an article published in to-day's "Stoa," pointing out the favourable

opportunity which now offers for a rising on the part of Greece against Turkey, and the necessity of immediate action in order to check the progress of Slavism.

The Turkish Minister, whom I saw to-day, appeared very anxious lest the present agitation should lead to acts of aggression on the part of Greece; remarking that the Greeks could at once place 10,000 men on the Turkish frontier, and which force could, in a short space of time, be considerably increased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from the "Stoa" of September 30, 1876.

(Translation.)

FROM the above telegrams almost every hope of future peace is gone. The persistance of Servia, from whatsoever cause it may arise, is to-day the best and sole ally of Greece. The continuance of the war, if we are prudent, and if we take manly precautions, is destined to save Hellenism, now in danger of being extinguished. Let us awake! even if it be on the brink of the grave, to which we have pursued our course without looking a-head at all; continually feeding on sentiments, hopes, and the egotistical idea that we are "par droit de naissance" the natural successors to our crumbling neighbour. We must not lose even a day. We must concentrate our forces, and work with unwonted energy, perhaps even to hasten on events. The Chamber must commence its work immediately, from the very day of its assembling. Let both the Government and the Opposition summon the Deputies friendly to them to work together. The absence of the King has been prolonged more than it should have been. Let the different factions make their situations clear. It does not signify whether the Ministry of Coumoundouros remains, or whether it is succeeded by another. Whosoever becomes master of the situation must work, sustained by the confidence of the nation and of the King in his efforts. Let insignificant outside questions and minute differences be laid at rest, the new Byzantine race has trifled away sufficient time during the last forty years.

Above all, this day, daring and assurance in our just cause, conviction in subjected Hellenism, are required. Crete overcame Turkey during three years, and fell when we were deceived and abandoned her. She did not yield herself. There are also Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia, mountain and men, to check the advance upon them of the disorderly hordes of Asia. If we have not disciplined troops, has Turkey got them? Are those disciplined troops which are assembled within a week's time, the Zebeques of the East, who are ordered up and sent into Servia and Montenegro? Is it not a shame that we should underrate our strength to such a point as this, whilst eighty battalions of Turks stand afar off looking on and trembling at the sword of Montenegro? And when has the Greek sword not been worth the mountain yataghan? We must confess it; as long as Servia holds in check the flower of the Turkish troops, our lot is not so hard as hers. Let us put all these things together. Never can a better opportunity present itself to us. Rising now with 100,000 men, it is as if at another time we rose with 300,000. Montenegro, Servia, and the exhaustion and trouble of Turkey make up for our weakness and disunion. Crete can conquer 50,000 Turkish soldiers! shall we not conquer 100,000? Those who undervalue our strength proportionately exalt that of Turkey, so that they believe, indeed, that Turkey can command at this time fifty thousand regular and disciplined troops; but if Turkey could command such a force, why should she not conquer Montenegro, which does not contain an equal number of women and children?

However, if there is not hope of our conquering Turkey, our boldness may check Slavism at the boundaries of Thrace and Macedonia. This victory is equivalent to two victories over the Turks. Europe who does not even remember our name will then study the map. For the present this suffices for all our sacrifices; but the future depends on our prudence.

No. 157.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 460.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith articles from this morning's "Agence Russe."

(1.) Announcing the intended departure of General Ignatiew for Constantinople to resume his diplomatic duties there.

(2.) The mission of General Soumarokoff to Vienna, charged with a letter from the Emperor Alexander to the Emperor Franz Josef.

(3.) A leading article expatiating on the pacific disposition and policy of the Emperor Alexander.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe" of September $\frac{13}{25}$, 1876.

NOUS sommes en mesure d'annoncer que l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatieff, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté auprès du Sultan, quitte demain la Crimée sur "l'Héridik" pour retourner à son poste. Son Excellence est accompagnée de toute sa famille, c'est-à-dire de sa mère, de sa femme, et de ses enfants.

Cette nouvelle en elle-même, et surtout par ses derniers détails, est de nature, ce me semble, à faire disparaître les bruits pessimistes là où ils existent encore et à calmer l'inquiétude partout où elle peut régner.

L'Aide-de-camp Général Sumarokoff, le même qui a représenté l'Empereur en Suède lors des obsèques de la Reine-Mère et en Serbie à l'occasion de la naissance du nouveau-né du Prince Milan, a été envoyé l'autre jour à Vienne par Sa Majesté, porteur d'une lettre autographe pour l'Empereur François-Joseph. Nous sommes heureux de voir les journaux les plus autorisés de Vienne s'accorder à dire que cette mission est destinée à raffermir encore les liens et les conditions de la paix.

Plus on avance dans la phase décisive de la crise Orientale, plus les faits sont connus et plus les preuves des efforts de tout genre et de toute nature de l'Empereur Alexandre et de son Cabinet pour concilier le maintien actuel de la paix avec sa consolidation future, abondent et emportent la conviction. On peut dire hardiment qu'à aucune époque de l'histoire on n'a vu la politique d'un Souverain attacher avec autant de persistance, de patience, et d'abnégation sa puissance, son amour-propre, et sa légitime influence à l'œuvre glorieuse de la paix par voie d'entente générale.

Mettant noblement de côté les petits côtés de la question, prévenant même ce qui aurait pu donner prétexte à d'incorrigibles soupçons, le Cabinet de Saint Pétersbourg, qui, mieux informé, signalait depuis bien longtemps la prochaine tempête en Orient, s'est empressé de laisser dans la question de son apaisement le premier rôle d'abord à l'Autriche, puis à l'Angleterre. Tenant seulement aux points essentiels, qui seuls pouvaient préserver le retour d'une crise aussi dangereuse pour la paix générale, il s'est ensuite montré coulant sur tous les détails qui n'étaient pas d'une importance capitale, n'hésitant même pas à sacrifier à l'accord commun sur les bases primordiales certaines conditions, comme celle par exemple d'un armistice régulier immédiat, sur lesquelles il avait tout d'abord le plus insisté.

Une conduite aussi hautement sage et bienfaisante ne pouvait manquer de trouver sa juste récompense dans la consécration solennelle de l'opinion des masses, qui précède toujours celle des faits.

Le grand mouvement qui se continue en Angleterre n'aurait certainement pas éclaté si les intentions désintéressées et généreuses de l'Empereur Alexandre n'y avaient pas été aussi évidentes que la clarté du jour. C'est à ce mouvement que l'on doit l'accord qui a pu fort heureusement s'établir entre les Cabinets de Londres et de St. Pétersbourg sur les bases principales des conditions de paix qui ont été soumises à la Sublime Porte.

C'est là sans contredit un grand pas de fait dans l'œuvre ardue de l'entente et de la pacification.

Mais ce n'est pas le dernier; il en reste un autre à faire, le plus décisif et le plus important de tous, qui servira pour ainsi dire de pierre de touche à la solidité de l'entente commune et à la sincérité d'un chacun. Toute la valeur pratique et réelle, en effet, de ces bases fondamentales sera dans leur application, c'est-à-dire dans les voies et moyens employés pour en garantir le sincère fonctionnement. Or, en Orient, les garanties sous

ce rapport ne sont jamais suffisantes. Et après tous les déboires passés, les intérêts de la paix et de la tranquillité Européenne réclament impérieusement que pour leur mise en pratique on ne se paie plus de vains mots.

C'est là le dernier pas à faire, la plus importante tâche qui incombe aux Puissances. Il est à espérer que les Gouvernements se montreront ni moins résolus ni moins sincères dans leurs derniers actes que ne l'a été l'opinion Européenne dans ses meetings, ses manifestations, et ses organes publics.

No. 158.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 461.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 3, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a précis of articles from the Russian press, on Eastern affairs, which I have received from Mr. J. Micholl.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Précis of Articles in the Russian Press.

Satisfaction of the Slavophil "Novoe Vremia" at continuation of Hostilities between Servians and Turks.

THE "Novoe Vremia" of the $\frac{1}{13}$th September, expresses strong satisfaction at the determination of the Servians to continue the desperate struggle for the complete emancipation of themselves and the other Slavonic races of the Balkan Peninsula, from the yoke of Turkey. This journal is, however, thoroughly convinced that Russia is able, with her potent voice, to stop the further effusion of blood, and to compel European intrigues to succumb to her disinterested policy. The ultimatum of Russia, it declares, can only be the complete autonomy of the Slavonic provinces and the equalization of the rights of Christians with those of Mussulmans in all the other parts of European Turkey.

Disinterested Policy of Russia as regards Turkey.

The "Golos" of the $\frac{18}{30}$th September, 1876, devotes a leading article to a review of the plans proposed by various statesmen and public writers in England, for the settlement of the Eastern question. The main feature of all these schemes, observes the "Golos," consists in a proposal for the dismemberment of Turkey.

As regards Russia, this journal observes, with great self-satisfaction, one of the strongest proofs of her pacific intentions towards Turkey lies in the fact that no plans, either for the "settlement of the Eastern question" or for the "division of Turkey," have ever been propounded by the Russian Government or by Russian society. The article proceeds to ask its readers whether it is not a remarkable circumstance that Russia, which has so long and so undeservedly been accused of harbouring ideas of conquest at the expense of Turkey, has not put forward a single project for the expulsion of the Turks out of Europe, and whether it is not surprising that it is the countrymen of Lord Palmerston who now consider it necessary (alluding to Mr. Farley's proposals) to establish the Russians at Constantinople?

The article concludes by asserting that Russia does not require Constantinople, and that her efforts are only directed towards the liberation of the Slavonians from an impossible and unendurable state of thraldom.

Meeting in Aid of Slavonians at Orel.

The Orel "Provincial Messenger" of the 21st September acquaints its readers of the arrival at Orel of Colonel Lomakorski, as Agent of General Tcherniaeff.

In connection with this visit, the journal states that persons sympathising with the Slavonic cause were summoned by the Mayor to attend a meeting at the Town Hall.

A large crowd assembled and listened with great interest to the account given by the Colonel of the progress of affairs in Servia. The Colonel informed the audience that the Servians were well supplied in the matter of provisions, but that they were in great want of boots, warm clothing, arms, and ammunition of war, and also of money. As regards sanitary detachments, he said that no more were needed.

A sum of 450 roubles was subscribed by the meeting towards satisfying the wants of the Slavonians.

No. 159.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 846. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, October 7, 1876.*

PRINCE ORLOFF, the Russian Ambassador here, observed to me this morning that there was one danger connected with the present state of the Eastern question, of which people in general were probably not aware. It was, he conceived, by no means impossible that the Turks, if they thought they could not escape coercive measures, would be inclined to seek a war with Russia. Their object in doing so would, he said, be to get rid in this way of the intervention of the other Powers, and place themselves in a position to treat with Russia alone. He had reason to believe that they imagined that by promptly submitting to the Emperor after a first defeat, and throwing themselves upon the generosity of His Majesty, they should obtain much more tolerable terms from him than would be accorded to them by a Conference of all the Great Powers.

There was, the Prince thought, a good foundation for the belief that in such a case the Emperor Alexander would be personally disposed to deal very generously with the Turks, but there would be a very great danger if a war were once begun that the current of events might be too strong for His Majesty. No one could say whither this current might carry Russia, nor when it might be possible to arrest it.

The Prince proceeded to tell me some anecdotes of communications between his father and the Emperor Nicholas, tending to show that in 1854 the Turks had seriously thought of simply appealing to the generosity of the Emperor, and that, in fact, His Majesty had reckoned on their doing so.

He went on to say that, under the influence of General Ignatiew, Sultan Abdul Aziz had, a short time before his deposition, contemplated making such an appeal to the Emperor Alexander, who would undoubtedly be disposed to yield a great deal in response to a direct appeal from a brother Sovereign to his magnanimity.

I may observe to your Lordship that Sadig Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador here, speaking theoretically of the various courses which were open to the Porte in the present emergency, said to me that, if pushed to extremities by the Powers, her best course would be to beg the rest to retire and leave her alone with Russia. Some of the conditions which Russia might impose, as, for instance, the opening of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to her ships of war, might be unpalatable to the Powers; but, as far as the Turks themselves were concerned, Sadig Pasha was confident that they would be able to make with Russia such terms as would enable them to live comfortably and peaceably some time longer.

I hinted to Sadig Pasha that by identifying themselves in this way with Russia, the Turks would destroy one of the principal reasons for which their presence in Europe was tolerated by the other Powers.

There were certainly, when I was at Constantinople nine years ago, some selfish, indolent fatalists among the Turks, who held that their best policy would be simply to curry favour with Russia in the hope that they should thus escape being teased about reforms, and that in this way a comfortable easy state of things, which would last their own time, might be produced. I did not, however, hear of their contemplating so desperate a measure as an actual war with Russia as a step towards getting rid of the councils of the other Powers, and throwing themselves entirely upon Russian magnanimity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 160.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 843.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 6, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes came back to Paris this evening, and I went to him immediately, and, in execution of your Lordship's instructions, communicated to him the answer which has been made by Her Majesty's Government to the Russian proposal that an armistice or truce of six weeks shall be imposed on both Turks and Servians.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had determined to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the terms proposed as a basis of peace.

I proceeded to tell the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference; and that you had instructed Sir Henry Elliot to intimate this to the Porte.

I added that your Lordship had informed the Russian Ambassador in London that Her Majesty's Government were unable to concur in the proposals made by Prince Gortchakow with regard to the occupation of Turkish territory, and the entrance of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

The Duc Decazes authorized me to state to your Lordship that he would immediately send instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support energetically the demand for an armistice.

I observed to the Duke that your Lordship had also directed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade to join his colleagues in pressing the Servian Government in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice; and I suggested that it would be desirable to send similar instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade.

The Duke readily agreed to send such instructions at once.

He observed that it was supposed that the Ottoman Ministers objected to the term "armistice" on the ground that the use of that word would imply a recognition of the Servians as regular belligerents, whereas in the eyes of the Porte they were simply insurgents. The word "truce," however, appeared to be regarded at Constantinople as comparatively unobjectionable.

I remarked, in answer, that the Russian proposal was for an armistice or a truce.

The Duc Decazes expressed his concurrence in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference. As matters stood, a Conference seemed, he said, to him to be in fact almost the only chance left of avoiding a recourse to force.

He spoke at some length of the inconvenience, and, indeed, danger, which would attend the occupation of Turkish territory by any of the Powers, or the entrance of the fleets into the Bosphorus; and he appeared to be well pleased that Her Majesty's Government had not agreed to either of these measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 161.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 844. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 6, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes mentioned to me this morning, confidentially, that he had heard from Rome that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires there his satisfaction at the refusal of Austria to occupy Bosnia, and had stated to him that the occupation of that Province by a foreign Power would be ill looked upon by Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 162.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 845. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 7, 1876.*

PRINCE ORLOFF, the Russian Ambassador here, came to see me this morning and said, in the course of conversation, that he conceived that on the conclusion of an armistice, the influx of Russian volunteers into Servia would be immediately stopped. He added that he believed that his Government would have the power as well as the will to arrest the passage of Russians into Servia. He was careful, however, to make it clear that he was expressing only his own personal opinions.

In speaking to me last evening, the Duc Decazes reverted to the opinion expressed to him by Prince Orloff that Russia would, in fact, be willing to engage not to allow any Russian volunteers to join the Servians, if an armistice were concluded.

I mentioned in my Confidential despatch No. 827 of the 2nd instant, that the Duc Decazes had told me that language to this effect had been held to him by Prince Orloff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 163.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 847. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 7, 1876.*

I REPORTED to your Lordship in my very Confidential despatch No. 795 of the 19th ultimo that the Duc Decazes had told me that M. Rosetti had come on a mission from Roumania to complain of Prince Charles, and to call attention to the danger to which his country was exposed by the designs of Russia.

Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador here, asked me this morning if I knew M. Rosetti.

I answered that I had heard of his being here, but that he had not made any attempt to put himself into communication with me.

Prince Orloff said that M. Rosetti had come to him and had held very wild language about a future kingdom of Roumania, with a population of 9,000,000, thus including all the Roumanians who are now subjects of Austria.

The Prince proceeded to tell me that M. Rosetti professed very advanced opinions. He had ascertained, he said, that this gentleman had been a good deal in France in former times, and had been a sort of agent of the Emperor Napoleon III. He added that he seemed still to have a leaning towards Bonapartism, and that he was in communication with General Fleury and other leading Imperialists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 164.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

INFORMATION has been received by the Porte that the Montenegrins have resumed the offensive, and that fighting is going on in the direction of Trebigné.

No. 165.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 9·45 P.M.*

I HAVE just returned from a private audience of the Sultan, at which I executed your Lordship's instructions of the 21st ultimo. I said that what had especially created

general indignation was the fact of the Porte, which might be admitted at first to have been ignorant of the crimes committed, having done nothing to punish the guilty or to reward those who have prevented further excesses.

His Majesty promised that the measures of relief called for by your Lordship for the suffering Bulgarians shall be fully carried out and the guilty punished.

He said that a telegram had this morning been received from the Commissioners, stating that proceedings were now being taken against two of those chiefly implicated. His Majesty did not, however, name them.

I left him the names of those mentioned by your Lordship, with the exception of Hafiz Pasha, about whose conduct subsequent information made me feel some doubt.

I added other names to the list, and also gave the names of those who had endeavoured to protect the people from the Bashi-Bazouks.

No. 166.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1876, 10 P.M.

AT my audience to-day Sultan spoke of the ancient sympathies between Great Britain and Turkey, founded as he believed on common interests.

He could hardly understand how proposals which might have been expected from Russia could have been made by Her Majesty's Government.

I said that in the position of affairs it was necessary for your Lordship to bring forward the propositions to which you could secure the assent of the other Governments, and that if Her Majesty's Government would have been perhaps satisfied with less, His Majesty might be assured that it was only through their exertions that more onerous conditions had not been insisted upon by others.

I told him that if his Government rejected those conditions, and at the same time refused to agree to an armistice, I had been instructed to leave Constantinople, as Her Majesty's Government could do no more to avert the ruin which such a decision would call down upon the Empire.

He said he could give no answer about the armistice, as his Ministers were then in Council deliberating upon it.

No. 167.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, *noon.*

I HAVE received following from Bucharest:—

"Russian force in Bessarabia probably much exaggerated.

"Traffic Manager told me on Wednesday that the railway authorities had been sounded from Russia respecting capacity of rolling stock. Minister for Foreign Affairs says it is not true. Traffic Manager's statement has been written to your Excellency and to London."

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, *noon.*

ON the 2nd instant I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul at Bosna-Serai as follows:—

"Canon Liddon and a friend who went to Servia by the Bosnian frontier state that they saw examples of revolting cruelties practised by Turkish officers of regular army, who have impaled at all the military stations along the frontier men and women. Report as to truth of this statement."

On the 5th instant I received following reply:—

"Everything known here would make statement in your telegram of 2nd instant perfectly incredible but for the name of your Excellency's informant. I will write of this by next post."

No. 169.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

FROM a conversation that I have just had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs I have great expectation that the Porte will agree to an armistice.

I hope, also, that the answer of the Porte may be still so far modified as to be an acceptation rather than a rejection of the conditions of peace proposed by your Lordship.

Minister asked me whether, in the event of the conditions being accepted, a Conference would still be proposed.

I said that it had been talked of on the supposition of their rejection by the Porte, but I could not say what the decision of the Powers might be in the event of the Porte accepting the conditions as the basis of peace.

There is so much dread of a Conference that the hope of avoiding one by accepting the propositions has great influence on the Turkish Ministers.

No. 170.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1876, 1·50 P.M.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs asked about the manner in which the armistice, if accepted, would be arranged. I said that the Powers having proposed to mediate for it, would, I imagined, through their own officers, concert for conditions and observance.

He asked what security there would be that the Servians would not occupy the positions from which the Turks withdrew.

I answered that I could say no more than that the Powers which had proposed to arrange the armistice would feel themselves under the obligation of rendering it equitable, and of seeing that it was properly observed by both parties, according to the rules of war.

No. 171.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1876, 10:30 P.M.

TELL Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had never contemplated a Conference without a basis by which the subject for consideration should be properly limited or defined.

A Conference appeared to them to be the best, if not the only, means of bringing about an agreement among the Powers as to the course to be pursued in the present situation, and to afford the best security against any action being taken by any individual Power without the concurrence of the others.

Its meeting would also afford time for the excitement in Russia to subside, and would be in accordance with usage on previous occasions when the concert of the Powers in regard to the affairs of Turkey was desired.

Her Majesty's Government therefore trust that Count Andrassy will not object in principle to a Conference, and they will gladly join with him in endeavouring to secure a satisfactory basis.

Above all they hope that the Austrian Government will give no encouragement to the Porte in persisting in an attitude of obdurate refusal.

No. 172.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 418.)
Foreign Office, October 8, 1876.

Sir,

I GATHER from your Excellency's telegram of the 6th instant that Count Andrassy has stated that he would not be disposed to assent to a Conference until he should be satisfied as to its composition and objects.

I am not surprised to learn that he should have expressed this hesitation, which is not unnatural, but I should wish you to explain to him that it had never been contemplated by Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should assemble until a basis should have been arranged which should define the subjects to be considered and secure their being confined within certain limits.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their opinion that, if the terms of peace should be refused by the Porte and an armistice accepted, a Conference should meet, because this appeared to them to be the best, if not the only, means of bringing about an agreement as to the course to be pursued, and because the meeting of the Powers in Conference would afford the best security that could be found against independent action on the part of any one Power without the consent of the others.

It is also obvious that the meeting of a Conference—a course which would be in accordance with usage on previous occasions, when the concert of the Powers has been desired on Turkish affairs—would have the advantage of affording time for the excitement in Russia to subside, which is now one of the principal obstacles to a pacific solution of existing difficulties.

Your Excellency will lay these considerations before Count Andrassy, and will explain to him that all that is asked of him at present is that he should not object to the principle of a Conference.

If he accepts that principle Her Majesty's Government will gladly join with him in endeavouring to arrange a satisfactory basis upon which the deliberations shall be regulated.

Concerted action on the part of the Powers is at the present moment of the most vital importance; as in the interests of peace it is essential that the Porte should not be encouraged to persist in an obdurate refusal of the terms of pacification and of the armistice by its supposing that the harmony of ideas which induced all the Powers to support the British proposals no longer exists.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope, therefore, that Count Andrassy will not use any language at Constantinople which could be so construed as to encourage further resistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 173.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8, 11 P.M.)

Belgrade, October 8, 1876, noon.

(Telegraphic.)

NONE of my colleagues except the French Consul have as yet received instructions to press acceptation of armistice at Belgrade.

I asked Sir H. Elliot to communicate to me decision of the Porte in this matter, as, if Turkish Government should refuse a formal armistice, details of which to be effective would have to be arranged between Commanders-in-chief of the two armies, any steps taken here would only make matters worse between Russia and the Porte.

Russian Representative here can obtain Prince Milan's consent whenever he chooses; and the last informal truce would no doubt have been prolonged (thus saving much useless bloodshed) if this Consul had thought proper to put in a favourable word for it with Prince Milan.

No. 174.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 9.)

(No. 184.)
Buda-Pest, September 28, 1876.

Sir,

IN the course of the legal proceedings against M. Mileties and others, the indictment and parts of some of the affidavits against him have been made public. He is indicted for disturbing the public security, for incitement to disloyalty, and for dishonourable administration of public endowments.

This last count refers to the political use which has been made of the funds of the Hungarian-Serb Church, which were managed in Serb interests by a Committee of Omladina nominees. Under the other two counts are M. Mileties' attempts to secretly enlist volunteers for the Servian war, and to illegally place part of the Servian forced loan.

It appears from the affidavits that M. Mileties is accused of holding an Omladina meeting whilst at Belgrade last May, in which he undertook to send over 20,000 to 30,000 Hungarian Serbs, and, in case of Servian success, to raise South Hungary in insurrection, and to act generally "for liberating the Serbs from the yoke of the Magyars and Mongols."

It does not appear, however, that the promised efforts were very successful. In fact, the Hungarian comforts himself with the reflection that the papers in this suit show the smallness of the danger from such conspiracies, whilst, on the other hand, they show the administrative carelessness which has allowed even that danger to grow up from permitting public offices to be filled by men of Omladina sympathies. I should add that, during the last few weeks, several of these have been dismissed from their offices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 175.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 9.)

(No. 186.)
Buda-Pest, October 3, 1876.

Sir,

AT the present crisis in respect of the Oriental question public opinion here has undergone no change, except in so far as to be strongly in favour of a war against Russia rather than any kind of a common action with her, and in favour of an occupation of the Turkish Provinces, as the lesser of two evils, rather than allow Russia to march into them. And an energetic article in this sense in the "Pester Lloyd" to-day seems to give general satisfaction, for it enumerates the reasons for the Conservative policy of the Empire, and then affirms that any action of Russia in her own special interests necessarily involves an obligation upon Austria-Hungary to resist it to her uttermost, not only for her honour now but also for her existence hereafter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 176.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 677.)
Vienna, October 3, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Holmes' telegram, which your Lordship forwarded to me on the 1st instant, stating that a band of 1,500 men, supposed to have come through Austria, had appeared on the Brood Road, endeavouring to force the Christians to revolt, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Orczy assures me that the Government here have received no information confirming this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 177.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 684. Confidential.)

Vienna, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE been unable until to-day, to obtain any positive information at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as to the decision which has been taken by the Emperor's Government, respecting the proposal of Russia for the occupation of the northern European Provinces of Turkey. On calling however at the Ministry this morning, Baron Orczy stated to me, that Count Andrassy had authorised him to acquaint me with a communication, which the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in London has been instructed to make to your Lordship on the subject.

He said that respecting the letter which had been addressed to the Emperor by the Emperor Alexander, and the answer which had been given to it, he had of course nothing to say; but that Count Somornikoff had also been the bearer of a communication to the Austrian-Hungarian Government from the Government of Russia, by which it was proposed, in the event of the Porte giving an unsatisfactory answer to the proposals of the Great Powers, now under its consideration, measures should be taken to enforce its acquiescence in them; and suggesting that the most effectual means of doing so, would be the occupation of Bulgaria by Russian, and of Bosnia by Austro-Hungarian troops, while a combined fleet of the maritime Powers should enter the Bosphorus.

He said that I must be aware that Count Andrassy had always considered any occupation of Turkish territory would be inexpedient, and that such a measure would not be a satisfactory manner of pacifying the insurgent Provinces, or of introducing reforms into their administration; and his Excellency had therefore, he said, declined to adopt it, and had endeavoured to satisfy the Russian Government that the object which they have in view will be more safely and certainly secured by the employment of naval means alone.

I answered, that I felt assured, from what is known to Her Majesty's Government of the opinions of Prince Gortchakow, that the limitation, desired by Count Andrassy, of coercive measures to the appearance of an allied fleet in the Bosphorus, would be assented to at Livadia; but I asked whether his Excellency had fully considered how his suggestion was to be carried out; did he expect thus to avoid war, and that the Government of the Sultan would permit a fleet, evidently intended for a hostile purpose, to pass the Dardanelles unresisted. As Baron Orczy answered that he thought resistance improbable, since to oppose the passage of such a fleet would be to declare war against united Europe, I said that the Sultan would have a more immediate danger to apprehend under the circumstances than even a war against Europe. The people of Constantinople believed that the Dardanelles could not be forced, and the appearance, therefore, of an hostile fleet before Constantinople, which had been allowed to pass the Dardanelles without resistance, would evidently be followed by a justifiable outbreak of popular indignation against the Sultan and his Ministers, who would probably be sacrificed as traitors.

On the other hand, I said, it appeared to me that a naval demonstration from Besika Bay would prove ineffectual, as if the Porte is deterred now by public opinion from accepting the proposals of the Powers, it would be equally so, on the appearance of the fleet before the Castles of the Dardanelles, which the population of Constantinople would believe it could not pass; and if this should be so, the Powers would then be obliged to carry out their menace, and a war would ensue, the commencement of which would probably be made memorable by the loss of several of the vessels of the allied fleet, and, if the Turkish Government still resisted on its arrival at Constantinople, by the Christians of the capital as well as the Turks having to suffer the disastrous consequences of a bombardment.

I said that I was entirely ignorant of the opinions of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, and as to the answer they were likely to give to the overtures made to them. But it appeared to me, that the considerations, which I had just suggested to him, should be duly weighed by Governments desirous of coercing the Porte without their measures actually culminating in war. I then said that your Lordship had sent instructions yesterday to Sir Henry Elliot, to warn the Porte against persisting in its announced intention to refuse the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as the alternative scheme of general reforms and a note is certain to be considered inadmissable, and that much more onerous terms of peace will undoubtedly be afterwards proposed, and pressed upon Turkey very probably by force.

I said I feared it was more to be desired than to be hoped that this warning may

have some influence on the Turkish Ministers, and the question will probably then arise as to whether the concessions it has made are entirely unacceptable. I should, therefore, like much to know Count Andrassy's views on this point, and whether he is of opinion that some means may be found of effectually securing out of the institutions offered by the Sultan for the Provinces of the Empire generally, all that has been claimed for the three northern ones. Baron Orczy professed not to know what decision his Excellency is likely to come to on the subject; but he would mention to me confidentially that the Servian Government is greatly discouraged by the recent events of the war, and has again appealed to the Government of the Emperor to use its influence at Constantinople with a view to the restoration of peace. It is, therefore, most desirable that the Porte should assent to such an armistice in Servia, as she has already done in Montenegro, and if it were granted he believed that the other points at issue could be more susceptible of an arrangement.

I told his Excellency that I had found the Turkish Ambassador, whom I met in his ante-room, highly pleased at learning that Count Andrassy had refused to occupy Bosnia, and confident that Austria would not be a party to any hostile measures against the Porte; and I had, therefore, cautioned him not to make himself responsible for the expression of such an opinion at Constantinople. I asked Baron Orczy, however, whether Count Zichy is not in a position to urge on the Porte its assent to an armistice, in return for the service rendered to it by Austria, in declining to occupy Turkish territory. But his Excellency said that if Count Zichy were to take credit for the decision of his Government as a friendly act towards Turkey, it might lead the Turkish Ministers to place confidence in the opinion which Alecko Pasha will possibly express to them, that Austria-Hungary will not be a party to enforcing on the Sultan the adoption of the proposals of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 178.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 686. Most Confidential.)

Vienna, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador had an interview with Count Andrassy two days ago to acquaint his Excellency with the objections of the Porte to signing a Protocol by which it would engage to concede administrative autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and he gave me to understand that his Excellency did not express much dissatisfaction on the subject, and had intimated that if the Porte brought forward counter proposals they might possibly be found acceptable by the Powers.

This statement is entirely inconsistent with the action of Count Zichy at Constantinople, many of whose telegraphic reports of his co-operation with Sir Henry Elliot have been communicated to me: but if it be true that Count Andrassy has held such language to Alecko Pasha, and it has been reported at Constantinople, it may have encouraged the Turkish Ministers to maintain their intention to give an unsatisfactory answer to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, notwithstanding the earnest warning conveyed to them in your Lordship's instructions to Sir Henry Elliot of the 3rd instant.

It is not improbable, however, that when Count Andrassy spoke to Alecko Pasha he may have, in his reply to the Russian overtures, suggested that a programme should be combined from the concessions offered by the Porte and the reforms which he recently submitted to the consideration of the Governments of Great Britain, Russia, and Germany. At all events, he had frequent and long interviews with Count Sumarokoff, during which they may possibly have come to an agreement on this subject, and Count Andrassy may have made the adoption of his views by the Russian Government a condition of his agreeing to enforce an arrangement on the acceptance of the Porte, a supposition which would be consistent with an opinion of his Excellency, which I reported in a telegram of the 12th ultimo.

If Alecko Pasha is to be believed, he spoke to him of "his convictions," which would prevent his occupying Turkish territory; and he reminded him also that, as a Magyar, he could not wish to add to the Slav Provinces of Austria-Hungary, or to promote the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 179.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 688. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 5, 1876.*

THE curiosity of the Diplomatic Body was somewhat excited here about ten days ago by Count Andrassy's having, contrary to his usual practice, paid an evening visit to the Turkish Ambassador, and spent some time with him.

I now learn from Alecko Pasha that his Excellency's object was to induce him to write to the Grand Vizier urging the Porte to conclude an armistice with Servia, and at the same time to ask for the good offices of the Great Powers to obtain the recall of the Russians from that Principality. Alecko Pasha said that, as his Excellency was anxious that the Russian Government should not know that he had made this request, he communicated it to the Grand Vizier by a private letter, to which he had not yet received an answer, but he is hopeful that the Porte may, therefore, still assent to the armistice proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 180.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 427.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 3, 1876.*

EDHEM PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, communicated this morning to Herr von Bülow a telegram stating that the General Council adhered to the Hatti-Houmayoun and confirmed the reforms granted to all the Provinces of the Empire, and that their decision would be officially communicated by identic notes to the Embassies at Constantinople.

The terms of Peace and the Protocol recommended by the Powers were not more admissible than the Berlin Memorandum, and could therefore not be entertained by the Porte, but the scheme of general reforms about to be applied to the whole Empire would meet all the legitimate wishes and wants of the Sultan's subjects. The telegram made no allusion to the armistice.

Herr von Bülow has communicated the Turkish Ambassador's message to Prince Bismarck, who is still in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 181.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 428.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 4, 1876.*

THE German Acting Consul at Salonica having reported that the family of the late Consul is exposed to annoyance by the threats of fanatical Mussulmans, the German Government have ordered a man-of-war, now stationed at Smyrna, to be sent to Salonica for their protection, as well as of the Consulate and of the German subjects residing there generally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 182.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 431.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 6, 1876.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions, I informed Herr von Bülow to-day of the answer your Lordship had given to the Russian Government through Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh respecting the Czar's proposal to the Guaranteeing Powers that further bloodshed should be immediately arrested by imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

Her Majesty's Government have decided, I said, to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace, but that Her Majesty's Government were unable to concur in Prince Gortchakow's previous suggestion respecting an occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus.

I also stated that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference, and that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to intimate this to the Porte.

Herr von Bülow, in reply, said that he would at once transmit your Lordship's communication to Prince Bismarck, who is at Varzin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 183.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 432. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 7, 1876.*

I TELEGRAPHED on the 3rd instant to your Lordship that I had reason to think that the Emperor William was favourable to the Czar's Eastern policy, and hoped the Emperor of Austria might give it his support.

My impression has since been confirmed; and I learn on good authority that if a serious difference of opinion were to arise between Austria and Russia, the Emperor William's sympathies would be in favour of supporting the Czar, to whom he feels bound by family ties, by personal regard and friendship, and by gratitude for the moral support Russia gave Germany in the wars against Denmark, Austria, and France.

After the meeting of the Emperors of Russia and Austria at Reichstadt, some suspicion arose in Prince Bismarck's mind that they had come to a secret agreement, which was concealed from the German Government, and when later Prince Gortchakow proposed a Conference, Prince Bismarck advised the Emperor William to decline the proposal.

The Czar was so deeply offended at his uncle's refusal that the Emperor William regretted his decision, and sought an excuse for an explanation which might lead to the re-establishment of cordial relations between them. He found one in the congratulatory mission of Field-Marshal Count Manteuffel, and intrusted him with a private letter to the Czar, the contents of which are not known, but the effects of which were all he could desire, as your Lordship has already learnt from the despatches of Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

It appears, however, that General Manteuffel, who is a devoted adherent of a Russian alliance, on returning from his mission, reported to the Emperor William, and later proceeded to Varzin to report to Prince Bismarck that the impression he brought back from Russia was that, thanks to the cunning of Prince Gortchakow and to the intrigues of Count Schouvaloff, a practical and cordial understanding between Russia and England would be brought about which might some day prove inconvenient in its effects to Germany, and he strongly urged his Imperial master and the Chancellor to be on their guard lest other alliances should follow, and separate them from their old and trusty Russian friends, on whom they had hitherto always been able to rely.

There can be no doubt that the Emperor William was much impressed by General Manteuffel's views and advice, and that His Majesty's sympathies are now more than ever enlisted in favour of the Czar's policy in Turkey. Besides which, the Emperor William dislikes the Emperor of Austria personally, and distrusts his policy, which has undergone so many different phases since 1849; and His Majesty, like Prince Bismarck, looks upon Count Andrassy as the only friend Germany has and can trust in Austria.

What impression General Manteuffel's views may have made on Prince Bismarck nobody knows. He has shut himself up at Varzin, where he devotes himself to the management of his estate, and to the prosecution of those among his tenants who will not pay their rent, and he avoids committing himself to any opinion on the political questions of the day beyond the general assurance that he will give his support to the maintenance of peace in Europe.

If, in the coming negotiations, Prince Bismarck should incline to support Austria

against Russia, he will have to sustain a conflict, as he has so often done before, with his Imperial master, and it is probably for that reason that he is not favourable to the idea of a Conference, in which he will have to adopt a more distinct line of policy than he has hitherto done in Eastern affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 184.

Ali Pasha, Governor-General of the Herzegovina, to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le 7 Octobre*, 1876.

DE Trébinje on me mande que le 4 et le 5 courant les Monténégrins ont ouvert le feu contre nos positions de Saslap, et que les nôtres y ont répondu. Hier un corps ennemi est venu attaquer Jurinje, dont quelques maisons furent brûlées. Des dispositions ont été prises pour repousser cette attaque.

No. 185.

Ali Pasha, Governor-General of the Herzegovina, to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le 8 Octobre*, 1876.

SUITE de mon télégramme d'avant-hier :—

"'Bulletin de Trébinje' annonce que ce matin l'armée de Moukhtar Pacha a pris d'assaut les retranchements de Nomadich et Boyanobrdo, entre Grahovitza et Grahova. Les Monténégrins, après avoir subi de fortes pertes, se sont enfuis en désordre en laissant une grande quantité de munitions et d'armes entre les mains des troupes Impériales. Hier la garnison de Lubigne avec la population a repoussé les insurgés, qui s'enfuirent vers le Monténégro."

No. 186.

The Duc Decazes to the Marquis d'Harcourt.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, October 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Paris, le 9 Octobre*, 1876, 3 *h.* 20 *matin.*

LE Prince Orloff vient de me communiquer le télégramme suivant :—

"*Livadia, le* $\frac{25 \text{ Septembre}}{7 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1876.

"Si l'armistice est accordé nous consentons à la Conférence proposée par l'Angleterre, à condition qu'elle ne soit composée que des Représentants des Six Grandes Puissances sans participation de la Porte, qui n'aurait à se prononcer que sur l'issue de ses délibérations. Si l'armistice est refusé, nous rompons nos relations diplomatiques avec la Porte. L'Autriche a promis d'en faire autant. Nous croyons que l'Allemagne ne restera pas en arrière.

"La même attitude du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité serait désirable."

(Signé) "LE PRINCE GORTCHAKOW."

J'ai répondu au Prince :—

"En effet la Conférence, si elle se tenait à Constantinople, serait naturellement composée des Représentants des Six Grandes Puissances aujourd'hui accrédités près la Sublime Porte; mais il y aurait tout avantage à se réserver le droit et la possibilité de les assister ou de les remplacer par des délégués *ad hoc*, l'intervention de ces derniers porteurs des instructions verbales de leurs Gouvernements étant de nature à offrir des facilités et des simplifications utiles. Mais il semblerait impossible de refuser à la Porte entrée et représentation à la Conférence. L'exclusion du Délégué Ottoman donnerait lieu à justifier le droit à une protestation formelle fondée sur l'Article VIII du Traité du 30 Mars, 1856.

"J'ai volontairement ajournée toute réponse à la partie de sa communication relative à l'attitude à prendre en cas de refus de l'armistice par la Porte.

"Je ne lui ai pas laisser ignorer l'avis que, en ce qui touche à la rupture des relations diplomatiques, j'aurais à me préoccuper en à des dangers qu'elle pourrait faire courir aux nationaux étrangers résident en Turquie, aussi bien que des suites qu'elle pourrait avoir, et comme manifestation j'ai du faire remarquer que l'effet en serait plus dangereux qu'efficace, surtout si elle n'était pas l'objet d'un accord préalable et unanime. Du reste il a été convenu que cette dernière éventualité restant en dehors de nos prévisions actuelles ne pouvait faire l'objet d'une réponse immédiate."

(Signé) DECAZES.

No. 187.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, 4·26 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Therapia, October 9*, 1876, 1·55 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER has sent in his resignation, but it is not yet known whether the Sultan has succeeded in inducing him to withdraw it.

If he should persist, and it should appear that he resigns rather than give way to the pressure put upon the Porte by the Powers, the consequences may be very serious.

No. 188.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 626.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9*, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1060 of the 25th ultimo, and I approve of your intention to see that the vacancy on the Commission sent to Bulgaria by the Porte, caused by the ill-health of one of the Christian members, is filled up by another person of the same belief.

With regard to your statement that 200 Circassian irregulars have been sent to the district of Philippopoli, I have to remark that Her Majesty's Government had understood that the use of these irregular troops would be discontinued.

If the irregular troops referred to are of the same class as those by whom the atrocities were committed, your Excellency will protest in the strongest terms against their employment in defiance of the public opinion of Europe and in disregard of the assurances given by the Porte to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 189.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 419.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9*, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador, who returned to his post yesterday, called upon me to-day, and read to me a despatch from Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein, dated the 17th September, with the contents of which I understood that it was intended I should have been made acquainted at the time of its receipt.

The despatch sets forth the objections of the Austrian Government to the proposal of administrative autonomy for the insurgent Provinces of Turkey, which Count Andrassy states that they cannot accept as a satisfactory programme. The term is vague, capable of contrary interpretations, may be construed to mean less than the Powers have asked or the Porte has granted, or may, on the contrary, be taken to signify a real and complete autonomy. But, in the latter case, the Christians would at once ask for the removal of the Turkish troops, a concession which the Porte could not make.

The vagueness of the proposal would excite hopes which it would be impossible to realise; and this with a suffering population is always dangerous. But even supposing

that the proposal could be put into a definite and practical shape, who is to compel the Porte to accept it?

Is the British Government prepared, Count Andrassy asks, to use force in order to compel the acceptance of these conditions? Can it do so, and yet maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire?

These are points, Count Andrassy thinks, on which we ought to be clear before committing ourselves to any course such as that proposed, otherwise the Christian population will be led to expect more than can be given them, and will refuse to be satisfied with the concessions which are really practicable. Unless we are prepared to say that the Turkish Empire must fall, we cannot go beyond certain limits, and must confine ourselves to such conditions as can be imposed upon the Porte by pacific means, and by the moral pressure which a common action of all the Powers must exercise.

The proposals of reform put forward last winter by the Austrian Government, Count Andrassy says, were accepted by the insurgents as in their essence sufficient; all that they required was that there should be guarantees for their due execution. The same proposals would probably be accepted now. They are clear, precise, and easy to carry into effect. The term autonomy, on the other hand, seems to the Austrian Government to have no signification unless it means the cessation of Turkish power.

The acceptance by the Austrian Government of the proposal for local autonomy as subsequently defined and explained seems to have deprived this despatch of most of its practical importance for present purposes; but I told Count Beust that I would take note of the reasons which had induced his Government to hesitate in giving their assent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 190.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 420.)
Foreign Office, October 9, 1867.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment upon his return to his post, and read to me a telegram which he had received from Count Andrassy, giving the reasons of the Austrian Government for objecting to the plan of a Conference to meet on the conclusion of an armistice between Turkey and her opponents.

Count Andrassy asks what would be the object of the deliberations of the Conference. The Powers are already agreed upon the basis of peace. The question to be discussed, therefore, is that of the means to be employed in order to bring the Porte to accept these conditions. And upon this question another instantly arises. Is Turkey to be represented at the Conference? If she is so represented, she must appear on an equality with the rest, and upon that footing she is not likely to concede to the representations of a Conference, in which there are sure to be differences of opinion, that which she has refused to the united demand of Europe. If, on the contrary, she is excluded from the Conference, she will draw from this a legitimate argument for denying its competency, and we are once more in presence of the problem of employing measures of coercion.

We must also consider, says Count Andrassy, the difficult position in which the Emperor Alexander will be placed in case the Porte refuses to submit to the decisions of a Conference. The Emperor Alexander is desirous of peace, but we know also that he is being urged in a contrary direction.

The Austrian Government state, however, that they do not wish to thwart the action of England, and are only anxious to have a thorough understanding upon the whole question.

They wish, therefore, to know—

1. Whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference?
2. Where the Conference is to meet?
3. If the Conference is to be composed of the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries, or of Plenipotentiaries?
4. What is to be the programme of the Conference?

It will depend upon the information derived from the answers to these questions whether they can waive the objections they now entertain to the idea. Until then they are of opinion that a Commission at Constantinople, such as had previously been suggested, would be a preferable plan, and would more profitably employ the time allowed by the armistice.

As Count Beust did not ask for an immediate reply to the above queries, I told his

Excellency that I must reserve my opinion on the first point, namely, whether or no the Porte should be represented in the Conference. It would be necessary to ascertain the views of other Powers, which were still unknown to me.

As to the second question I must equally reserve a final expression of opinion; but, personally, I was inclined to think that Constantinople would be on various accounts the most convenient place of meeting.

As to the third, I considered that the personal attendance of the various foreign Ministers at a Conference whose sittings might last some time, would be in many respects unadvisable.

As to the fourth, I agreed in the view which I understood to be that of Count Andrassy, that a Conference without a basis was not likely to lead to good results; and I thought that a programme, more or less definite, ought to be agreed upon before it met; but the terms of such programme would require care in framing, and I could only say that it should be submitted to the Powers in due course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 191.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 9, 1876, 3·10 P.M.*

THE tone of Russian press is in favour of Russian occupation of Turkish territory. Military preparations are being made. On the 4th instant, sum of near 5,000,000*l.* sterling was applied for military purposes; on the 6th instant, orders were received here to expend 1,000,000*l.* sterling on forage. Heavy guns have been sent to Otchakoff, Kertch, and Sebastopol.

In Servia Russian Volunteers amount to 10,000 men, exclusive of 2,000 Cossacks. 60,000 men are concentrated at Alexandropol on the Armenian frontier.

No. 192.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 9, 1876.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has informed Italian Government that his Government object to the presence of a Turkish Representative at the Conference.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has withheld opinion in replying to the Russian Ambassador, but tells me confidentially that he considers the pretension to exclude the Porte to be extraordinary, and (opposed to ?) the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

No. 193.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 9, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the instructions sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to support Sir H. Elliot and to follow his example in threatening to quit Constantinople if the armistice is refused, are intended seriously or merely as a threat.

The Minister replied that certainly they are serious. He could not suppose that a threat of this nature could be made, unaccompanied by an intention to execute it.

No. 194.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)

Vienna, October 8, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs to-day:—

"A battle took place yesterday between Montenegrins and the Turkish army under Mouktar Pasha, lasting till 7 P.M. Both sides retain original position. Montenegrin loss was 30 dead and over 70 wounded. They cut off 400 Turkish heads, and estimate enemy's loss at nearly 800.

"Prince's pacific disposition continues unabated."

No. 195.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)

Vienna, October 8, 1876, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON informs me that the other foreign Agents at Cettigné are all accredited in some form to the Prince of Montenegro, and are authorised to hold out a hope of his obtaining the rectification of the frontier, and he thinks that his position would be strengthened if he had some kind of credentials, and if he could state that Her Majesty's Government do not look unfavourably on His Highness' wish for territorial concession from the Porte.

No. 196.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 25. Political.)

Erzeroom, September 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE this instant received a letter from Van, which bears so strongly on the subjects reported in my despatches, Political, Nos. 21 and 22, that I venture to inclose extracts from it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Extract from a Letter from Van.

Van, September 11, 1876.

VAN news is again putting on so much life, that I will continue "the notes." From the front all tidings are adverse to the Turk. From the rear there is also a mixed sound of robbery and rebellion. The "rear" includes the region of Bashkalla, about two days' south of Nero. A Koordish Chief, who lives on the border between Turkey and Persia,* is said to have quite a large body of men under arms, and to be committing depredations on the villages in that region. It seems pretty certain that he has plundered one or two villages; and the Van merchants who are trading in Bashkalla, have closed their shops, packed up their goods, and are trying to get them back to Van, so much seems certain. Also that the Government has armed the inhabitants there for resistance. It has been reported that a similar state of things exists at Kotour, about two days' from here, towards Beyazid. There it is said several soldiers were killed. Persian soldiers are said to be mixed up with those predatory raids; and the native surmises are that Persia is adding a pang to the sick man's sufferings. It looks at present as though our Persian line of retreat was being endangered. It is said the Pasha is waiting the arrival of his successor. Also that he has called for volunteer soldiers from among the Armenians.

We have had continued reports for weeks past that Russia is gathering troops on the border near Kars and Beyazid.

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* Probably Derbaz Agha.

No. 197.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 154. Political.)

Belgrade, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch No. 124 of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot.

Further excesses of Turkish troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, September 23, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram to Lord Derby, dated the 17th instant, reporting the inquiries of Sir Arnold Kemball on the subject of Turkish outrages on women, &c., I regret to have to bring to your Excellency's notice the following list of outrages as more particularly calling for inquiry:—

1. The killing in Rashan of the Secretary to the Serb Red Cross Society, Luka Popovitch, with special cruelty when his left arm was cut off. The details were referred to by M. Ristich in his letter to me, of which I had the honour to send your Excellency a copy.

2. The barbarous proceedings of the Egyptian Cavalry (regulars), near to Alexinatz, when three wounded Servians were tied to trees by ropes and roasted to death on the 2nd or 3rd of September; Mr. Villiers, the Special Artist of the "Graphic," saw these bodies and sent a sketch of this horrible spectacle, which appeared in No. 355 of that illustrated paper on the 16th instant.

The third crime of which the Turkish troops are accused (besides many others) was committed near Yankouo Clissoura in the month of August, when a young Christian girl of 16 was horribly outraged by some Turkish soldiers, who, after violating her person, left her bleeding with her body split up in the centre, and her flesh and skin hacked with sabres on her back.

She died a few days later in a Servian hospital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 198.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 155. Political.)

Belgrade, September 24, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot.

Diminution of chances of peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, September 24, 1876.

Sir,

THE last six weeks have produced an important change in the affairs of Servia.

The greatest apprehensions were then entertained that the Turkish army was about to penetrate into the interior of Servia, and, under the influence of that fear, the conclusion of an early peace had strong support in the country, and the Prince himself was inclined to favour it.

Matters have altered completely since. The civil Government has ceased to have a voice in public affairs; the presence of Russian officers, some of them officers of the Imperial Guard, the courage and enthusiasm with which they are animated, the growing influence of the Slavonic Committees through their agents, have all given a warlike tone to what is called public opinion here; and the slowness with which the Ottoman troops have followed up any of the advantages gained by their superior infantry has made the Servian hopes revive to a degree hitherto unknown.

If peace on the basis of the *status quo* had been offered to Servia a month ago, it might have been easily accepted, and there would have been hardly any opposition to it.

Things are very different now; the Russians present here say openly that it is their aim and object to prevent the conclusion of peace.

A week ago, when General Tchernaieff proclaimed Prince Milan as King of Servia in the army, this act met with but little echo at Belgrade.

Two days ago the members of the National Assembly present here voted an address, asking the Prince to assume the regal title; and great efforts are being made to commit the Ruler of this Principality to it.

Everything of course depends on the result of the negotiations now going on at Constantinople; but should these be broken off, it is expected that Russia will assume openly a hostile attitude towards the Porte.

In that case matters would be rapidly precipitated here; Prince Milan would then follow the invitation of his army and leave Belgrade, proclaiming his Royal title before his departure; the capital would be transferred *pro tem.* into some town in the interior, where the chiefs of the Administration would take up their residence.

Of course it may be hoped that all these dangers can be avoided if the Porte accepts the recommendations of the friendly Powers; but if the Imperial Government should not listen to these amicable councils, and if Russia should be left free to act in open hostility to the Porte, Servia, and possibly Roumania would probably act as allies of Russia and declare their independence as kingdoms; it is only with a view to such a contingency that the strange pronunciamento of General Tchernaieff's army can have any importance.

A few days more will throw undoubtedly light on these proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 199.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 156. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch No. 126 of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot.

Refusal by Servian Government of prolonged armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, September 25, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive from Semlin this morning your Excellency's telegram, dated the 24th instant, 6 P.M., by which you informed me that the "Porte has consented to a further suspension of hostilities to the 2nd October, and had sent orders to the commanders not to resume the offensive without distinct orders."

I immediately went to convey to M. Ristich this information; but, on being shown into his reception room, he appeared accompanying Prince Milan, and an interview of an hour followed.

The Prince, having listened to my communication, stated at once that he entertained the strongest objection to any renewal of suspension of hostilities in this informal manner.

His Highness admitted his willingness to have a regular armistice concluded, but he argued at some length on the impracticability and inconvenience of the one which had

terminated this morning, to which he entertained the greatest objection from a military point of view.

He said he had telegraphed last night to General Tchernaieff that he was at liberty to recommence hostilities, and he admitted having heard from the General that Turkish watering parties had been fired upon, and he saw in this a fresh proof how unadvisable it was to enter into vague and undefined arrangements of this kind.

The last time I had seen the Prince was on the 24th of August, when he had convoked the Consular Body to ask for the good offices of the Six Guaranteeing Powers, and he therefore took this opportunity to make me feel that one month had fully elapsed since that day, and that he had as yet not received any information as to the result produced by that application on his part.

From different sources I had heard how Prince Milan's feelings had been worked upon in the meantime, how his mind had been incessantly poisoned and prejudiced against any suggestions tending to pacification.

I had certainly something to do with his application for the good offices of the Powers, and also with the acceptance by his Government of the temporary cessation of hostilities on the 16th instant, and he had not been long in the room with me and with his Foreign Minister, before I became instinctively aware that I had to deal with a Prince labouring under immense difficulties, almost entirely in the hands of his desperate Russian advisers, and full of irritation, ready to break out at any moment in reproaches, and strongly bent to dismiss me with a refusal of any fresh informal cessation of hostilities.

One unguarded word might have produced a most unsatisfactory result.

I, however succeeded in giving a friendly and conciliatory tone to the conversation, and placed before the Prince the reasons which I thought most likely to induce him to give his sanction to this temporary and informal arrangement, and then begged of him to let me have some answer which I could transmit to your Excellency and to Lord Derby.

The Prince said that, from a military point of view, he had a decided objection to the issuing of these orders, but that, owing to the political interests at stake, he would consult with his Ministers, and let me know his determination.

If I do not hear of it before the messenger passes Belgrade in the night, I shall inform your Excellency by telegraph.

As the influence of the Servian Ministry is *nil*, I presume that the determination of the Prince of Servia at this point will entirely depend on the recommendations of the accredited Agent of the Emperor Alexander here, and on the advice given him by his Russian friends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 200.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 165. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 28, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, by my telegrams of the 26th instant, and of this day, Nos. 157 and 164,* Political, that the Prince of Servia has not only shown no inclination to entertain the offer of the Porte to extend for another week the suspension of hostilities, but has even declined to re-consider this decision on his part, when pressed to do so at an interview I had with him yesterday, in company of my Italian colleague.

The latter, who has been long acquainted with Prince Milan, took this opportunity to employ most convincing language, to impress upon him how desirable it was that he should show deference to the friendly advice of Her Majesty's Government, whose good offices had been so actively employed in favour of Servia.

Should your Lordship think it an appropriate occasion to inform the Italian Government of the co-operation I received on this occasion from Count Joannini, even though our persuasions were ineffectual, I should feel particularly grateful for such an acknowledgement.

I cannot help thinking that, as long as Russian advice is different, there is any hope of stopping the useless effusion of blood going on here.

I have expressed to the Prince and to M. Ristich the views of Her Majesty's Government on this occasion, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant (No. 163, Political), and I have declared to them that a renewal of hostilities "will throw

* Recorders of telegrams.

on them the responsibility of the consequences." I was, however, assured by them that the Porte had delayed too long this offer of renewal, as these had been actually recommenced, and it was now too late to stop them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 201.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 166. Political.)
Belgrade, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

THE first week of the suspension of hostilities terminated on the 25th of September, and hostilities recommenced on the Morava Valley on the next day by a general attack on the part of General Tchernaieff's army.

On the 29th the Turks resumed the offensive, and there was heavy fighting on both occasions, but both parties appeared to have retained all their fortified positions, so that the only result of these consecutive engagements has been a large and wanton loss of life on both sides.

The season is getting so advanced, and the slowness and indecision of Turkish movements has hitherto proved so great, that it is highly improbable that they will be able to accomplish anything decisive or significant this year.

It appears even possible that the difficulties of the Turkish transport service may force the Ottoman forces to retire back upon Nisch, in which case the military position of both sides would revert, after three months' fighting, to exactly the same *uti possidetis* as before the war.

The Servians, on the other hand, cannot expect to do anything more this year, though General Tchernaieff continues as sanguine as ever.

As it is now evident that the great political questions at issue cannot be affected by what the Serbs may do or not do by themselves, and that the war on their part is merely continued owing to the wishes of the war party in Russia, it appears most desirable that the Powers should agree to some collective decision by which this wanton bloodshed should be either interrupted for the winter or definitely stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 202.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 168. Political.)
Belgrade, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

AS might naturally be expected, the special mission of General Soumorokoff at Vienna has produced considerable interest here.

This General is the same envoy who represented the Emperor Alexander at Prince Milan's marriage at Belgrade, in October, 1875, and your Lordship will find in my despatches some indications of the importance which was attached to his mission at the time.

A great deal of what has happened since, and more especially the supremacy of Russian influence in the mind of Prince Milan and among his immediate counsellors, may be traced to that memorable visit.

It was supposed that General Soumorokoff would repeat his visit here to represent his Imperial master as sponsor at the baptism of the infant prince, but it appears that M. de Kartzoff, my Russian colleague, will have the honour to represent his Sovereign on this occasion.

The importance and delicate nature of the General's mission to Vienna left him no time to revisit Belgrade.

It is extremely probable that this Government obtained timely information of his mission to the Austrian Court, and that the hint conveyed on that subject from Livadia was not altogether lost when Prince Milan thought proper to refuse the prolongation of a suspension of hostilities proffered by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 203.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 169. Political.)
Belgrade, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

IT may be interesting for your Lordship to hear that money appears abundant in the the Servian Exchequer, and though the Ministers stoutly deny that it is derived from Russian sources, it is quite impossible to account in any other way for its origin.

Large commands have been made for a winter campaign, and though it is impossible to prove whether the foreign subsidy is derived from the Slavonic Committee or from Imperial coffers, the native resources are not sufficient to explain the abundance of money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 204.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(N. 170. Political.)
Belgrade, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

FROM many symptoms which have recently come under my information I am satisfied that it would be most desirable in the interest of Europe, of Turkey, and of Servia herself that peace should be promptly restored to the Principality.

I am quite convinced that is the real desire of a numerous class of the people of this country, but these are overawed by the decided tone of the more noisy patriots and by the presence of so many boisterous Russians.

Russian blood and Russian money is following, but many Servian patriots feel that the result may be very different from what they anticipated when they commenced hostilities.

Putting aside for the moment the local Servian concerns, I must place on record my serious apprehensions that a focus for Slavonic agitations is being created here under direct Russian influence which may in the long run affect the future of all neighbouring countries.

The Servian peasants may gradually become permeated with new ideas, and though the Civil Service will continue discontented, a Russian administration will gradually replace these. The priest and schoolmaster are even now attached to Russia, and this transformation is proceeding so rapidly that I cannot comprehend how Austrian and Hungarian statesmen can view it with such apparent equanimity.

Surely this is not purely a Turkish question; some people have objected to a creation of an independent South Slavonic Kingdom, but instead of one with feelings of self-respect, they are permitting the progress of ideas alike fatal to Turkey, and to such a creation; but instead of it fostering influences conducive to the extension of Russian power to a degree hitherto unknown in these parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 205.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 20. Political.)
Rustchuk, September 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch with one inclosure addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 20th instant, giving a history of the massacre of Vratza in May last and reporting on the present state of the Vilayet.

Rifaat Pasha, who visited Vratza, has been promoted to the Governor-Generalship of this Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 205.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, September 20, 1876.

Sir,

THE inclosed translation of the statement of one of the first Bulgarians of Vratza on what occurred there in May last, has been put into my hands.

The tale it tells appears to be so straightforward and unvarnished that it needs no comment on my part.

I am constantly hearing of facts that clearly show that the inland parts of this vilayet continue to be in a state of the greatest insecurity, chiefly from the gross neglect of the authorities. And people even say that this state of things is purposely kept up so as to prevent as many as possible of the recent sufferers from coming to where they might meet those who would listen to and perhaps forward their grievances elsewhere.

The war and other taxes and impositions, I hear, are also being peremptorily levied, and I am assured that many who have lost their all and cannot of course pay are treated with great severity. In fact from all I have heard I am convinced that there is at present in force inland, a system that, should the insurrection be renewed, will bring on a far worse state of things than hitherto.

The local authorities here, as usual, deny everything, and if a Turkish Commissioner is sent here alone he goes to the Konak, and bases his reports on what he hears from the local authorities; thus the Porte is left in complete ignorance of what it may have cause to regret.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 205.

History of the Massacre at Vratza, in the Vilayet of the Danube.

A FEW days after St. George's day, Rifaat Pasha, the Mutessarif of Widdin (now Governor-General of this vilayet) came to Vratza, assembled the leading men of the Bulgarian community, and told them that he had learnt that there was an insurrectionary movement in their town, asked them if they had any knowledge of it, and advised them to make the parties known, and desist from such an undertaking.

The leading men said that they had no knowledge whatever of any restlessness in their midst, and to prevent any attempt in this direction, they begged the Mutessarif to send them a detachment of troops. The Mutessarif left, the troops were sent, and everything remained quiet, everyone followed his own occupation.

On the 19th of May (o.s.) a detachment of Bashi-Bazouks arrived (to look for insurgents from the Raditzky). One of the inhabitants, a Turk, went to the Kaïmakam and told him that he had seen an insurgent enter a certain house. The proprietor of the house was called, and a demand was made that the insurgent secreted in his house should be delivered up, or else the house would be burnt. He assured them that he had no knowledge of such a person being in his house. The house was then surrounded and forcibly entered, and a young man of 17 years, who had been teaching the smallest children of the town at the salary of 100 piastres per month, and had just gone a little previously to this house for some corn, intending to sow it, was forcibly dragged to the Konak. On the way there, everyone, young and old, who was found in the street, was either shot or cut down, to the number of about sixty, with yataghans. Among them there was a Priest, 80 years of age, who was crossing the street from the church. The cries of the wounded, and the wailing of their friends, filled the town. Partly from terror, and partly from sympathy for the wounded and bereaved, the business men closed their shops, and gathered their corpses to the church for interment.

Not long after, the crier of the town proclaimed through the town that a mistake had been made, and that the business places should be opened, and that everyone should follow his occupation. The people naturally hesitated. This was considered an act of insubordination, and, consequently, the town was looked upon as insurrectionary, whereupon arresting commenced. People were taken from their houses, their families, their tables, and put in prison. Their houses were completely ransacked in the search for supposed arms and ammunition, of which, however, none were found, but the valuables were carried off, which can be proved from the fact that, some time after, the Vali of Rustchuk demanded, by telegraph, that the arms taken from the insurgents at

Vratza should be sent to Rustchuk. The reply was that no arms were found. A further proof of the innocence of these people is shown in the fact that, from the 115 arrests made of the survivors, and examined before the Special Commission for trying insurgents, not one was found guilty.

To make it appear that they were caught in mountains, they were stripped of their clothes to the shirt and drawers, put into irons and chains, and sent off to Berkootcha. While on their way to Berkootcha, they were treated most barbarously. One man, who is still in Rustchuk, became deaf in consequence of being repeatedly raised up by his chain through the grating of his prison window.

Their treatment on the way from Berkovtcha to Widdin was more humane; their escort allowing them to drink water and eat bread.

At Widdin the Pasha ordered them to be put into the Chunguri-Serai, almost naked and bare-footed. They were for hours exposed to the burning heat of the sun, without a drop of water or morsel of bread to revive their failing strength. The deprivation and suffering which they endured during their imprisonment of sixty days, are indescribable, and can be judged from the fact that several of them have died, others are still sick, and several are enfeebled for life.

It is very evident that the cause of this horrible abuse and spoliation of so much property was the fact that the Bulgarian inhabitants of Vratza, by their industry and economy, have increased in wealth and property, and thereby created an envy on the part of their Turkish neighbours, who, at the same time, have been sinking deeper and deeper in poverty. Fifty years will not be sufficient to restore the flourishing condition of Vratza and vicinity to that state in which it was five months ago.

With all the loss and ruination, Vratza and the villages in its vicinity are overrun to-day by employés of the Government engaged in gathering by force the dues for the Government. In the natural scarcity of cash, sheep are taken at the value of 15 piastres (about 2*s.* 6*d.*), and grain at 30 piastres per kilog. To-day the military force kept at Vratza to keep the peace, where never a disturbance existed, is quartered in private houses throughout the town, while there are khans in the town capable of quartering 10,000 soldiers.

The two persons principally charged with the horrible visitation of Vratza, are the Mudir of the telegraph and the Kaïmakam.

The sole reason why Berkovtcha has not suffered the fate of Vratza is to be attributed to the wisdom, humanity, and caution of its Kaïmakam.

No. 206.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I this day had a formal audience of Prince Charles for the purpose of delivering your Lordship's letter.

After conveying to His Highness, in compliance with the terms of the letter, your Lordship's high consideration for the person of His Highness, I added that in England there is much sympathy for this country; that we consider that Roumania is a centre of progress in the midst of races of comparatively but limited culture, and as such destined, by an example of good government, a prudent policy, and the operation of free institutions, to play a civilizing part among the populations of the East.

That nothing would be wanting on my part, not only not to impair, but, if possible, even to increase the relations of friendship, which exist between Her Majesty's Government and that of His Highness.

His Highness, in reply, expressed himself extremely sensible of the good wishes of your Lordship, and said that it was impossible to overrate the importance which his Government attached to the good opinion of Her Majesty's Government, and to the good will of the English nation.

That in every respect his Government would be prepared to afford me every facility for the execution of the duties which have been entrusted to me, in the quality of Her Majesty's Agent in this country, and that His Highness felt certain that the relations of his Government with that of Her Majesty's could not be in better hands.

The reception took place with the ceremony which is usual on such occasions.

Having two days since received a telegram from Sir H. Elliot to the effect that the

title of "Roumania" may be regarded as conceded by the Porte, I felt justified in using that title instead of "the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 207.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1070.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert upon the measures that are being carried out for the relief of the inhabitants of the desolated districts.

The Mr. Clarke mentioned in it is an agent employed by the Relief Committee which has been organized here, but Mr. Calvert also reports what is being done by the Turkish authorities.

Midhat Pasha, to whom I spoke yesterday of the urgency of adopting measures both for the relief of the sufferers and for the punishment of the guilty, told me that the Commission now at Philippopoli had instructions and authority to carry them out.

Timber for rebuilding the houses was to be provided by the Government, and the Mahommedans would be required to assist in the works. The Mixed Commission will, he believed, conscientiously carry out its instructions.

With regard to the proper punishment of the guilty it is likely that much difficulty will be experienced.

I informed your Lordship that Chefket Pasha, notorious for his proceedings at Boyadjikeui, had been dismissed from the Palace, but he was afterwards named a member of the Military Council, and is still retained upon it, although frequent representations have been made to the Porte that in the face of the grave charges against him his employment till he had cleared himself was almost defiance of public opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 207.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September* 20, 1876.

IN regard to the distribution of succour in this "Sandjak," I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the authorities of Bazardjik have formal orders from the "Mutessarif" here to provide Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, with every assistance and protection he may require while engaged in relieving the villages of that "Caza."

I was informed by Mr. Clarke, who, before starting on his mission, came to Philippopolis last Friday to ascertain what measures had been taken for his protection, that when he visited the village of Batak a week previous, inhabitants of the place were returning thither from other localities, where they had taken refuge; that he had found there Edhem Agha (the "Yuzbashi" of zaptiehs), who, as mentioned in my despatch of the 20th August, was entrusted by Blacque Bey with the task of collecting and restoring stolen property, who had succeeded up till then in restoring 300 head of cattle to the village; and that eighty reapers had arrived there, sent by the authorities to reap the crops.

Mr. Clarke knew nothing of the circumstances mentioned to me by the Mutessarif here, and referred to in my despatch, that forty-five horseloads of household objects had been lately disinterred by the inhabitants of Batak.

Mr. Clarke started from here on his return to Batak on Friday afternoon, and should have arrived there the following day.

According to the Governor of Philippopolis, whose statements I have hitherto found on the whole to be tolerably correct, considering the channels through which he must get his information, the amount of utter destitution calling for relief in the villages of Bazardjik and Philippopolis will not be very considerable, as the majority of these villages will have their autumn crops to subsist upon during the winter, and besides the pecuniary aid that

has been given by Government, the collection of tithes and other taxes has been suspended.

The official statement of the assistance that has up to the present been granted by the Government to the distressed villages is as follows:—

A sum of 700,000 piastres was sent from Constantinople; of this 300,000 piastres was forwarded to Bazardjik, and the remaining 400,000 piastres kept for the villages of the Philippopolis "Caza." Only 219,000 piastres of the latter sum has been as yet spent, chiefly in buying cattle to enable the people to harvest their grain, and it has been divided among the following twelve villages:—

	Piastres.
Chemlek or Choumlouk	8,000
Leshna	24,400
Ouzoundja	16,800
Kazariska	10,030
Peroushtitza	48,400
Krastovo	2,000
Aivadjik	18,400
Zingidly	6,000
Pastouuitza	2,000
Lariiza	2,000
Eureili	10,000
Yessi-Coron	30,000
	178,030
For bread, further sum of	41,865
For miscellaneous wants	4,750
Total	219,645

The authorities here have as yet no account of the manner in which the 300,000 piastres sent to Bazardjik have been spent.

I have not yet had the means of verifying the above official statement, except in the case of two villages, Eureili and Yessi-Coron. Inhabitants of these villages inform me that 10,000 and 30,000 piastres have actually been paid to them respectively to purchase cattle.

As regards the official assertion that the collection of taxes was suspended, I have questioned peasants from several of the burnt villages, and they agree in stating that a month or two ago they were forced to pay the taxes, but that now these are now longer demanded.

The villages, like Clissura Derventi, which depended exclusively on the production of attar of roses, the Governor is of opinion are more in need of help than the grain-producing villages.

The Philippopoli Relief Committee, under the presidency of M. d'Estrin, the French Consul, is now providing for 102 destitute women and children, chiefly from Peroushtizza and other villages in the immediate neighbourhood of this place. These poor people are housed in the asylum which the Committee has opened here, and are supplied with every necessary. The building is now almost full, but I have heard members of the Committee complain that the Turkish authorities will not allow the destitute to leave their villages in order to come here for relief. I have not in any instance been able to discover that such is the case, however: all the peasants whom I have interrogated assuring me that no impediment is raised to their coming hither by the authorities. It is probable, nevertheless, that the destitute in the more distant villages are deterred from leaving by the dangers of the road, and by want of means.

The present object of the Philippopoli Committee is to succour exclusively women and children whose bread-winners have been removed by death or imprisonment. The recipients of relief will be maintained at the expense of the Committee during the winter only, and in the month of May will be sent forth to earn their own living. In the meantime all who are capable of working are supplied with employment, chiefly spinning, by which they can earn from 60 paras to 2 piastres a day, so that, when thrown once more on their own resources, they may have a small capital to begin with.

In my despatch No. 5 I stated, rather prematurely, that the Committee had opened an asylum at Bazardjik also; this asylum was opened only two or three days ago, and has not yet any inmates. It is destined chiefly for the destitute of Batak. The Committee intends, as soon as its funds allow, to open a third asylum at Carlowa.

The Turkish Commission, under Sadoullah Bey, arrived here yesterday, and this afternoon will start for Bazardjik, on their way to Batak, which is the first place they will visit. I learn from Sadoullah Bey that the Commission will visit all the ravaged districts, with a view to appointing local Committees to superintend the distribution of relief and the

rebuilding of houses. The Commission is provided with a sum of 300*l.* Turkish for immediate distribution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 208.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.

(No. 1071.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1876.*

THE entirely untrustworthy report of Edib Effendi upon the occurrences in Bulgaria was published by the Porte and forwarded to your Lordship at the time.

The report of the two Christian Commissioners afterwards sent to Philippopoli has not been published, but I have been able to ascertain its nature.

The instructions of the Grand Vizier to these gentlemen were that they should discover the real truth of what had occurred, to state the facts plainly, and to denounce the persons whom they found to have been guilty of excesses, without regard to their rank or position.

They appear to have executed these instructions conscientiously, and in a very different spirit from that of Edib Effendi, to the untrustworthy nature of whose report, they, if I am not mistaken, allude.

With regard to the villages where the principal scenes of slaughter occurred, their account does not appear to differ materially from that of Mr. Baring, and they denounce the same individuals as the instigators of them, but as respects the number of persons who perished, their estimates differ greatly from his.

The village of Batak, for instance, which consisted of 490 houses, contained, as proved, they say, by the registers of the military exemption tax, little more than 2,800 inhabitants, while many of those supposed to have perished are still in the neighbouring villages, from which they had caused to be brought back sixty-eight young women and children who had been dispersed among them when there was no shelter for them in their own homes.

These were probably the same as those alluded to by Mr. Baring.

Be this as it may the conduct of those who are responsible for the massacre is stigmatized by the Turkish Commissioners very much as it has been by Mr. Baring, and they show that the villagers had given up their arms before they were attacked, and that men, women, and children were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Bashi-Bazouks led by Ahmed Aya, his son, and his son-in-law.

The report speaks of the women and children that had been killed without, however, as far as I can learn, mentioning outrages upon them, but if the Government is as determined as it professes to be to punish the guilty, sufficient material will be found for fixing upon them, and bringing their crimes home to them.

This latter duty will fall upon the Commission which has been since sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 209.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1077. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1876.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, I sent Safvet Pasha the inclosed private letter, urging the acceptance of the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government in view of the imminent danger of foreign intervention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

(Très Confidentielle.)
Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le 27 Septembre, 1876.*

J'AI parlé l'autre jour à vous et à Midhat Pacha de la disposition qui existe en certains quartiers d'arriver à une intervention active dans vos affaires; et un télégramme que je viens de recevoir me prouve que ce désir s'accentue de plus en plus, et que nous sommes arrivés au point où une menace de pression matérielle n'est plus qu'une question d'heures dont rien ne pourra vous sauver que l'acceptation immédiate et complète des conditions proposées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Quoique je vous donne cette information très confidentiellement vous pouvez la regarder comme absolument correcte.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 210.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1079. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1876.*

WHEN I left the Porte yesterday Count Zichy waited there in hopes of seeing Safvet Pasha, upon whom he intended to impress the necessity of accepting the proposals of the Powers in the manner indicated in the paper inclosed in my previous despatch.

Late in the evening I received a messenger from him bringing the inclosed private note telling me what he had done, and asking my opinion upon a form of declaration which he said he had brought Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to consent to.

From it, as your Lordship will perceive, the words autonomy and Protocol are both omitted, and I consequently answered my colleague that I was convinced that although it might be regarded as sufficient by our own two Governments, it would not satisfy the rest, and that, therefore, we must continue to press for the more explicit declaration.

He has written to me to-day that telegrams he had received from his Government having shown him that I was right, he had sent to the Turkish Minister to say that the form they had discussed could not be entertained, and he asks me to meet him to-morrow at the Grand Vizier's, in order that we may use our joint influence to induce his Highness to give way on both the contested points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 210.

Count Zichy to Sir H. Elliot.

Mon cher Collègue, *Pera, le 28 Septembre, 1876.*

APRES votre départ je me suis acquitté de ce dont nous étions convenus. J'ai eu un entretien de deux heures avec Safvet et avec Midhat Pacha. Nos pourparlers ont abouti à la rédaction que je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-près.

Veuillez l'examiner et me faire savoir si vous l'approuvez. Je dois ajouter, cher collègue, qu'il serait utile de pouvoir faire connaître votre adhésion à Midhat demain dans la matinée.

Mille amitiés,
(Signé) ZICHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 210.

Memorandum.

LA Porte ayant déjà décidé l'adoption pour toute l'étendue de l'Empire d'un nouveau système d'administration provinciale qui donnera aux populations un contrôle sur leurs agents locaux et fournira en même temps des garanties contre des actes d'autorité arbitraire, ne fera pas de difficultés à notifier officiellement aux Représentants des Puissances médiatrices que ce nouveau système sera naturellement appliqué dans toute sa vigueur aux provinces insurgées ainsi que les réformes déjà mentionnées dans la note du Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères en date du 13 Février, 1876.

No. 211.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1080. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1876.*

I INFORMED your Lordship that at a meeting of my colleagues, when the Russian Chargé d'Affaires stated that he had not yet received instructions to support the proposals of Her Majesty's Government in the shape in which they had been sent to me the others said that they would wait to make their communications till M. Nelidow received his instructions.

The Austrian Ambassador had been desirous and was quite ready to support them at once, but it appears that while we were discussing what was to be done the German Ambassador whispered to him that he was only authorized to take that step in the event of its being adopted by both his Austrian and Russian colleagues, and that it would not be enough for him to know that one only of them had done so.

Count Zichy thereupon naturally said that he also would wait, and the circumstance is only worth reporting to your Lordship as showing the anxiety of the German Government not to separate in the slightest degree from Russia, as the acceptance by Count Andrassy of your Lordship's propositions must certainly have been known to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 212.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1081.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1876.*

I WENT yesterday to the Porte to urge again the necessity of the immediate acceptance of the conditions proposed to it by your Lordship and supported by the other Powers.

Safvet Pasha was not at his office, but I had a long and earnest conversation with Midhat Pasha, who dwelt upon the obstacles caused by the word autonomy and by the demand that the arrangements should be consigned in a Protocol to be signed between the Porte and the Powers.

I showed him that the explanation of the term administrative autonomy deprived it of all character which the Porte could regard as dangerous, and that with regard to the Protocol, what was now asked was no more than what had been done when the regulation about the Lebanon was made in 1861.

I told him that the communications I had received from your Lordship left no doubt that the acceptance of both these expressions was indispensable, and that the refusal to entertain them would be regarded as a rejection of the proposals that had been unanimously concerted by the Powers, and would certainly quickly be followed by measures of coercion which the Porte ought to make any sacrifice to avert.

Nothing could now save the country from the danger that was threatening it, but a frank and full acceptation of the proposals without change or modification.

Midhat Pasha then spoke of the premium which would be held out for future insurrection if the provinces which had remained quiet saw extensive reforms granted to those which had risen, at the demand of foreign Powers and guaranteed by them.

I answered that the decision which the Grand Council had come to two days ago

disposed of this difficulty to a great extent; for if even a larger measure of reform and of control than had been asked for by the Powers as regarded the insurgent provinces was to be generally applied, there was no reason why the Porte should not answer that, these being resolved upon for the whole Empire, it would be ready to record in a Protocol that they should be applied to the insurgent provinces, as well as the other measures promised by the Porte in February last.

The Powers would, I believe, be satisfied if the Porte stated this somewhat in the terms contained in a paper of which the copy is herewith inclosed.

I had consulted Count Zichy about it, and he had said that he could not doubt that it would be considered satisfactory.

Midhat Pasha was evidently more than half convinced that no other course was open than that which I had pointed out, but he would not commit himself too far without consultation with his colleagues.

On my return home I wrote the letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, to Safvet Pasha whom, as I have said, I had failed to see; and he will probably convey the substance of it to the Grand Council which it is intended to assemble to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Draft of Protocol.

LA Sublime Porte acceptant la médiation des Puissances pour la conclusion de la paix se déclare prête à en signer les préliminaires sur les bases proposées par Lord Derby.

La Porte ayant déjà décidé l'adoption pour toute l'étendue de l'Empire d'un système d'autonomie administrative telle qu'elle est expliquée dans la susdite proposition ne fera pas de difficulté à constater par un Protocole à signer entre elle et les Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices que ce système sera appliqué aux provinces insurgées, ainsi que les réformes déjà promises dans la réponse à la communication du 30 Décembre.

Inclosure 2 in No. 212.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, le 28 Septembre, 1876.*

J'AI beaucoup regretté de ne point vous trouver au Ministère, où je me suis rendu pour tenter un suprême effort pour vous engager dans la seule voie qui pourra encore sauver votre pays des plus grands malheurs.

Vous êtes à la veille de prendre une décision sur laquelle pourra dépendre l'avenir ou peut-être même l'existence de l'Empire, et ce n'est que par un sacrifice comparativement léger, plutôt d'amour propre que d'intérêt, que vous pouvez vous dégager d'une responsabilité terrible.

Il paraît que dans les propositions de Lord Derby il y a deux expressions qui vous font hésiter: l'une est "l'autonomie administrative" et l'autre le "Protocole" à signer, mais, mon cher Ministre, vous devez bien reconnaître que l'explication qui accompagne la première lui ôte toute signification qui aurait pu vous paraître dangereuse.

De même pour le Protocole.

Les Puissances ne demandent que ce qui a été fait en 1861, quand l'arrangement pour le Liban a été consacré par un Protocole signé le 9 Juin de cette année.

Vous prendriez, il paraît, l'engagement demandé sous une autre forme, et sur cette simple question de forme vous mettrez en péril les intérêts les plus sacrés de l'Empire!

Je ne veux pas le croire.

Vous connaissez les efforts persistants de mon Gouvernement pour amener à une solution pacifique la crise par laquelle nous passons, mais Lord Derby m'a fait distinctement comprendre que toute chance de succès dépend de l'acceptation franche et complète de la Porte des propositions telles qu'elles ont été concertées par les Puissances.

Ainsi donc, mon cher Ministre, au nom de mon Gouvernement et au nom de l'intérêt que je porte personnellement au salut de cet Empire, je vous engage encore une fois de

ne pas laisser échapper ce qui pourra bien être la dernière occasion de sortir de vos difficultés.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 213.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1082.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a confidential report from Mr. Sandison, respecting the present state of public feeling among the Mahometan population.

It is probable that there may be exaggeration of the danger to which the great body of the Christians is exposed; but when the excessive weakness of this Government in the means of protecting them in many parts of the country is taken into consideration, there can be no doubt that their position will be rendered extremely critical, if, after the language that has of late been employed in England, measures should appear to be in progress for giving a practical effect to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, September* 28, 1876.

NOT to speak of the tone and spirit of the Turkish press in general, including the official organs, the violent opposition made at Tuesday's General Council to anything like local or administrative autonomy to Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, plainly shows the national determination to resist any concessions that might place those Provinces in an exceptional position.

Whilst the true meaning of "administrative autonomy," which, though sufficiently explained, continues to be misunderstood by many, the general prejudice against the term itself is so very strong that there is not a Turk who would now acquiesce in its adoption. Then, again, whilst some suppose it to be fraught with danger to the rest of the Empire, and others consider it unbecoming to the national dignity, the majority of the Mussulman public, including the officials of all ranks, are unanimous in saying that they would rather face the dangers with which they are threatened than consent to administrative autonomy for Bosnia, &c.

Thus the reforms which have already been sanctioned quite recently shall, they say, apply to all the provinces alike, but in no other form, and under no other denomination than that proposed by the General Council held at the Porte on Tuesday last.

Three Ministers of State, whose views I heard on the subject, were all of one mind, in stating that if, in the face of the reforms which have just been granted, Europe would not be satisfied, neither the nation nor the Government could possibly go any further. Nor did their Excellencies, speaking for themselves and for the country, make any secret of their determination to abide the worst consequences of a foreign invasion rather than submit to the course now recommended.

The cause of justice being at the same time on their side, every Mussulman, including themselves, down to the lowest official, would know how to struggle in the defence of his country; but if Europe wished for a crusade, as its attitude seemed to imply, she should not lose sight of the safety of the Christians in Turkey if the object in view were not so much to avenge as to protect them.

The feeling of superiority and exasperation prevailing amongst the Mahometans in European Turkey may not, they said, be without its dangers, and the day may come that, before the Powers are in time to pour in their armies, not a Christian may be found surviving. Such might also be the fate of the Christians inhabiting Asia Minor, the Turks may be driven from thence too, but they cannot all perish, and they hope to meet with sympathy and hospitality in other Mahometan countries, such as Persia, Central Asia, and, perhaps, even India.

Such is the language held by Ministers of State, which I feel it my duty to report to your Excellency, and such, I may say, have been the insinuations of some Ministers under Mahmoud Pasha's administration.

They are typical, indeed, of the national feeling, which is undoubtedly getting stronger every day; and nothing in the face of it is likely to prove more dangerous to the Christian element than a foreign invasion or occupation at the present juncture.

A *levée en masse* of the Mussulman population would not, under the circumstances, be at all improbable, inasmuch as the Turks are already beginning to call for the unfurling of the Prophet's standard, because they suspect that danger for the true faith and for national existence lies already at their door. Whilst these notions cannot but render stronger the feeling of religious fanaticism amongst the Mussulmans, the greater must be the perils which threaten the defenceless Christians.

I have ventured to express these views because I already hear of irritation prevailing on one side, and uneasiness on the other; and it may, perhaps, be as well that I should quote the words of a good authority in these matters, who, writing from Salonica on the 24th instant, says:—

"The speeches and pamphlets which are published, and the agitation prevailing in Europe, may yet do a deal of harm, and may be followed by atrocities far more bloody and extensive than those which were provoked in Bulgaria; if once the idea gains ground amongst the Mahometans that their expulsion from Europe will be attempted, God protect the Christians. From sheer despair there may be an upheaving of Mahometan fanaticism, which may extend to more than one country."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 214.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1085.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1876.

AT the invitation of the Austrian Ambassador I called with him on the Grand Vizier this morning, when the conversation which ensued was so nearly the same as that which I have already reported as having passed between Midhat Pasha and myself, that it is needless to repeat it to your Lordship.

Count Zichy was very energetic in demonstrating the necessity for the Porte of not hesitating in regard to the Protocol, and to the expression of administrative autonomy, as applied to the arrangements to be made for the insurgent provinces; and in doing so intimated, with a frankness that surprised me, the doubts which must be felt as to the real designs of Russia, and the consequent importance of not leaving her a pretext for complaint.

The Grand Vizier said that the Grand Council, which was to have been assembled to-day, had been postponed till to-morrow, as the papers connected with the new reforms, which had been sent to the Sultan, had not been returned from the Palace.

I took the opportunity of pointing out how extremely undesirable it was that the consideration of questions, such as those now before us, should be referred to an assembly constituted like the Grand Council.

They were matters upon which the Sultan's Ministers, with the full knowledge they possessed of the true situation, were alone capable of forming a proper judgment, and they ought not to shrink from the responsibility of taking the steps called for by the vital interests of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 215.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 1086.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 30, 1876.

MY other despatches which will reach your Lordship by the present messenger will satisfy Her Majesty's Government that I have spared no effort, nor the exercise of such personal influence as I possessed, to induce the Porte to give an unqualified assent to the propositions brought forward by the united European Cabinets.

I have been able to do so not only as a simple act of duty in carrying out your

Lordship's instructions, but as conscientiously believing that no other course can now save this Empire, and perhaps Europe, from an imminent danger.

At the same time I cannot but express my fear that the apprehensions felt by the Porte of some consequences likely to result from the proposed measures are based upon too good grounds.

I have already informed your Lordship of the effect produced upon the Greeks of this country by the impression that the Slav Provinces were, at the demand of the foreign Powers, about to be endowed with special autonomic institutions, and your Lordship has also learnt from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens the excitement that is being caused in Greece by this news.

Nothing can, I believe, avert the insurrection in the Greek provinces and islands, which is likely to be fomented from Greece, but the application to all parts of European Turkey of the reforms demanded for the insurgent provinces; but even this will leave the former in an exceptional and comparatively disadvantageous position, by the reforms granted to the Slav Provinces being recorded in a Protocol signed by the Powers, which will give a guarantee that they will not themselves possess.

The Protocol will constitute an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris; for it will confer upon the Powers the right of interference in the internal administration, from which by that Treaty they were debarred.

The non-execution of the promises, upon the faith of which the Powers had engaged not to interfere, may have deprived the Porte of the right of invoking that engagement; but it will be a very serious matter if, as I assume from the language of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, it is intended that the proposed Protocol is to be considered as putting the administration of the provinces under the practical control or protection of the foreign Governments, to which all grievances complained of, whether real or imaginary, are to be referred.

Much of what is worst in the administration of the Turkish provinces is the consequence of the deplorable weakness both of the Central Government and of the local Governors, and anything that tends still further to diminish their authority will be injurious rather than beneficial.

Your Lordship will find this opinion strongly and repeatedly expressed by Mr. Consul Holmes, who has probably a larger experience in Bosnia and the Herzegovina than any other person that could be found.

I do not go the length that he does of not wishing the Governors to be even controlled by Provincial Councils; for some security of the kind appears indispensable; and if the people get the further privilege of sending Delegates to a Central Assembly at Constantinople, by which they will be able to bring to the knowledge of the Porte much that at present never reaches it, there is reason to hope that great practical benefit to them will be secured.

The object to be kept in view is the improvement of the whole provincial administration and the establishment of a state of things under which all classes of the population shall live together on equal terms; but if one of these classes is to be looked upon as protected by the foreign Governments, and the other by the local Governors, no satisfactory relations can permanently be established between them, although a hollow truce might temporarily be enforced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 216.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1087.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 30, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom has informed me that the Grand Duke Michael having recently arrived at Gumri, the Governor-General of Erzeroom had dispatched the Governor of Kars to congratulate His Imperial Highness in his name.

Mr. Zohrab adds that Sumih Pasha's main object in taking this step was, however, to ascertain, if possible, what is being done on the Russian side of the frontier, and how far the Russian army is in readiness to enter upon a campaign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1089.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 2, 1876.*

IF the article from the newspaper "Neologos," of which an extract is inclosed, represents as correctly as I believe the universal feeling of the Greeks upon the present position of affairs, and upon the manner in which special privileges to the Slavs will be looked upon by them, it merits the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Extract from the "Neologos" of September $\frac{11}{23}$, 1876.

(Traduction.)

La Position Actuelle de la Question d'Orient.—LA politique pacifique de la Grèce a empêché l'embrasement de l'Orient d'un bout à l'autre, et a limité la lutte dans les provinces du nord de la Turquie beaucoup plus efficacement que ne l'a fait la diplomatie; sans cette politique pacifique la lutte se serait très vite répandue en Thessalie et en Epire, en Albanie et en Macédoine, en Candie, et, peut-être, dans d'autres localités.

Le motif qui a poussé la nation Grecque et la Grèce à cette politique pacifique était double: la Grèce était tenue de soumettre sa politique à la politique de l'Europe, s'efforçant à limiter la lutte et à écarter la guerre Européenne. En second lieu elle était tenue d'avoir en vue des raisons non pas d'une humanité factice, mais réelle; et de considérer que si le soulèvement d'un petit nombre de Bulgares a fourni le mot d'ordre à d'effrayantes cruautés, le soulèvement des Grecs réduisant au désespoir les populations Musulmanes aura pu produire une destruction et une désolation sans exemple dans les chroniques de l'histoire.

Au mois de Mai l'anarchie existait déjà à Constantinople et dans les provinces. Toute la population Musulmane était armée, et si le soulèvement Bulgare a provoqué tant de représailles, que la philanthropie Britannique se fasse une idée de ce qui serait arrivé si le mouvement Grec venait à se joindre au soulèvement Bulgare, si la Grèce en faisant ces sacrifices pour les intérêts de l'humanité a renié ses droits nationaux, s'en suit-il que les Grecs verront sans s'émouvoir la partialité de la diplomatie Européenne en faveur des provinces Slaves, qui n'ont pas subi plus de malheurs que les provinces Grecques, ni ont versé plus de sang pour leur autonomie nationale? Nou, la Grèce et la nation Grecque ont cédé au vœu général de l'Europe poursuivant la conservation du *statu quo* et la régénération pacifique de la Turquie. Aussi longtemps que ce *statu quo* est conservé, la Grèce et les Grecs n'entendent point mettre des obstacles à ce développement pacifique; mais s'il s'agit de déranger ce *statu quo*, si la diplomatie Européenne croit le moment venu pour procéder à la concession d'autonomies à telle province ou telle autre, la nation Grecque, qui a la juste prétention d'avoir inscrit dans son histoire 400 ans de luttes sanglantes, et chez qui il y a plus d'éléments pour la conquête de son autonomie que toutes les autres populations qui habitent le même pays, ne tolérerait pas qu'elle soit traitée moins bien que ces populations. Plutôt que subir cette humiliation et la confiscation de ses droits nationaux au profit du Panslavisme, elle préférerait la lutte suprême et le carnage que la diplomatie s'efforce de prévenir dans les provinces du nord de la Turquie d'Europe, se propagerait dans les provinces du sud, le long de la Mer Égée et dans l'Asie Mineure.

Personne en pareille circonstance ne serait pas justifiée de blâmer l'élément Grec. Il sacrifie, il est vrai, et il sacrifiera, ses tendances au *statu quo*, mais il ne le ferait jamais si le *statu quo* étant dérangé, la diplomatie Européenne accordait à d'autres ce qu'elle lui refuse. La Grèce ne renie point sa politique pacifique en tant que l'Europe ne renie pas le principe du *statu quo*, avec l'amélioration générale du sort des Chrétiens, mais si l'Europe venait à renier ce principe, la Grèce n'aurait aucune raison de persister dans sa politique en se suicidant au profit du Panslavisme.

Nous avons vraiment pitié de la diplomatie Européenne, si en fermant les yeux à cet état de choses elle venait à déranger le *statu quo* en faveur d'un seul élément ou plutôt si par la création de petits Etats autonomes, elle perpétue le carnage en Orient et le danger d'une guerre Européenne, en réalisant, elle-même entraîné, hélas! par des hommes tels que Gladstone, les vues séculaires de la politique Russe. L'existence d'un tel Orient rendrait

le pays composé de petits Etats faibles incompatible avec aucun développement, et elle le mettrait à la merci de la Russie.

No. 218.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1090.)

Therapia, October 1, 1876.

My Lord,

ABOUT a fortnight ago Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., in passing through Constantinople, placed in my hands some papers containing accounts of acts of atrocity and plunder, said to have been committed by Turkish irregulars and Circassians upon the Christian inhabitants of several villages of the Dobrudscha in the neighbourhood of Toultcha, Rustchuk, and Varna.

Copies of the documents are herewith inclosed, which I at once communicated to Mr. Consul Reade and Mr. V. C. Dalziel, while I directed Mr. Consul Sanderson, who was then on his way to his post at Galatz, to proceed to Toultcha, and inquire into the truth of the cases which were said to have occurred in that neighbourhood.

I have not yet received Mr. Reade's Report, but the reply of Vice-Consul Dalziel and the telegram from Mr. Sanderson, of which I inclose copies, sufficiently prove the stories relating to their districts to be unfounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 218.

Information communicated to Sir H. Elliot by Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.

ON écrit de Toultcha, le 2 Septembre, 1876 :—

1. La Dobroudja n'a pas encore eu des commissaires Anglais et Americains pour y faire des enquêtes sur les atrocités des Turcs et cependant le fanatisme Mahométan fête dans la Bulgarie Nord est les mêmes orgies que dans les autres parties du pays. Quoiqu'il n'y ait pas eu ici un soulèvement, les Bachi-Bozouks et les Circassiens ont commis les mêmes horreurs que partout. Ils ont brûlé les villages Nejkovo, Medven, et Gradetz. Comme ailleurs, ils ont déshonoré des filles agées plus de dix ans et les femmes; ils ont coupé en morceaux les autres enfants et les ont brûlé sous les yeux de leurs mères. Les filles qui se distinguaient par leur beauté ont été vendues par les Circassiens sur les places publiques, en présence même des autorités. Ces scènes cannibaliques se sont répétées aussi dans les villages Dragojevo, Preslav, Dovnja, Imerleri et Tschatepe. Les plaintes portées sur ces faits révoltants au Mutessarif Choumla sont restées sans effet; au contraire les plaignants ont été jetés dans la prison comme trompeurs et calomniateurs. Il y a 15,000 fuyards Bulgares dans la Dobroudja qui sont venus des suivants villages situés au pied du Balcan: Kotel, Teravna, Katounista et Tchterene. Beaucoup de ces pauvres gens ont été massacrés en route, les autres sont exténués de fatigue et de privation et n'ont pu sauver le moindre objet de leurs biens. A Silistria on a aperçu beaucoup de cadavres sur le Danube, et on a reconnu dans ces cadavres les pauvres Bulgares arrêtés et amenés à Roustchouk il y a quelques semaines. Tous les cadavres avaient les mains liés au dos. L'autorité de Silistria a défendu aux habitants de tirer ces cadavres de l'eau.

2. Dans le village Kazil-Murad (Novo-Selo) district de Razgrad, un Turc vient chez un Bulgare, et sans que celui-ci ait eu la moindre créance à lui acquitter, le Turc lui demande quinze livres. Le Bulgare sachant que toute opposition serait inutile, puisque l'autorité Ottomane ne le prendrait jamais sous sa protection, et n'ayant pas l'argent à la main, prie le Turc d'attendre une quinzaine de jours, jusqu'à ce qu'il aura vendu le blé de son grenier. Après ce délai, le Bulgare n'ayant pas pu vendre son blé, il met à la disposition du Turc ses bœufs et d'autres objets. Celui-ci refuse à les accepter et promet au Bulgare qu'il lui montrera la vengeance Turque. En effet, le paysan Bulgare se trouvant un jour avec sa femme, son fils, sa belle-fille et quelques enfants au champ, le Turc, accompagné de quelques de ses compatriotes, armés tous jusqu'aux dents, se présentent là tout-à-coup, tuent d'abord les hommes en leur faisant sortir les entrailles, déshonorent après les femmes et leur coupent enfin la gorge ainsi qu'aux enfants. Jusqu'à ce jour les assassins se promènent librement et se vantent de leur bravoure. L'autorité Ottomane ne bouge

pas même du doigt; on trouve cette barbarie inouïe à sa place, car il ne s'agit que de ghiaours.

Inclosure 2 in No. 218.

Further information communicated to Sir H. Elliot by Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.

LA situation malheureuse des Bulgares n'est pas changée et chaque jour nous voyons se répéter les mêmes drames sanglants et la même tactique chez les Turcs dans leur conduite envers les Bulgares.

Nous vous donnerons en appui de ce que nous avançons quelques faits.

Le 15 Août, dans le village Yagubie, une heure distance de Roustchouk, les Circassiens ont tué un pauvre paysan et déshonoré sa femme. Les paysans ont apporté le mort à Roustchouk; le préfet de la ville les a chassés; ils se sont plaints au Gouverneur-Général, qui s'est borné d'envoyer quelques gendarmes pour faire une enquête sur place. Les gendarmes se rendent dans le dit village, rassemblent tous les Turcs et Circassiens, et leur tiennent le langage suivant: "Si vous rencontrez quelque Bulgare tuez-le, parceque tous les Bulgares sont des Cometadjés (voir le journal "Renaissance" de Braila). Non loin de Sistov les Circassiens ont tué et dévalisé quelques voyageurs. L'autorité locale ne veut entendre aucune plainte sur ce sujet. La population est dans une angoisse perpétuelle et attend de moment en moment d'être massacrée des Turcs, qui propagent ouvertement un massacre général des Chrétiens. Sous prétexte de secours pour l'armée, le Gouvernement Turc exige de ceux-ci de tels secours, qu'ils sont dans l'impossibilité de donner. On leur prend tout l'argent. De plus, les paysans doivent donner toutes les céréales qu'ils ont pour se nourrir pendant l'hiver. Outre à 20 maisons on exige une pain, de bœufs, et un chariot. Tout cela doit être accompagné d'une déclaration signée par eux, que tous ces secours sont volontaires. Le téméraire qui résistera à ces ordres est poursuivi secrètement et tué comme insurgé. Le mois passé, Blacque Boy, directeur de Bureau de la Presse, et Ivantcho Effendi, fonctionnaire Turc, ont été envoyés en Bulgarie en mission spéciale; dans les cercles officielles on dit qu'ils feront un troisième rapport sur le nombre exacte des victimes du dernier massacre. Mais les personnages autorisés confirment nos propres informations qu'ils se rendent en Bulgarie pour faire signer à la population Bulgare par force des adresses envers la Sublime Porte, qu'ils sont contents de leur position, etc. Avant même de l'arrivée de ces personnages les autorités locales ont rassemblé déjà de telles adresses et particulièrement dans le Vilayet du Danube. Tout cela se fait pour tromper de nouveau l'opinion de l'Europe sur le véritable état de choses en Turquie.

A Etropole, ville dans le district de Sofin, les Turcs ont fait de nouvelles atrocités. Ses meilleurs jeunes gens ont été liés et torturés, particulièrement Michael Lavoff et la famille Peyoff père, frères, sœurs, parents, tous ont supporté des tortures inouïes. Leurs maisons ont été détruites sous prétexte de cacher des armes.

Il n'y a pas beaucoup de temps, les Turcs ont proclamé amnestie générale, et peu de jours après ils ont pendu 20 Bulgares au milieu de la ville de Sofin. A Roustchouk on a tiré trois fois la corde pour pendre un malheureux Bulgare et trois fois la corde s'est rompue. Malgré cela on ne lui fit pas grâce, et finalement il a été pendu. Les prisons sont pleins de prisonniers et la pluspart sont exilés en Asie Mineure.

Inclosure 3 in No. 218.

Consul Dalziel to Sir H. Elliot.

Varna, September 27, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, in reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 1, that, so far as I know or have been able to ascertain, no outrages whatever have been perpetrated by Bashi-Bazouks in this district.

Many stories or rumours of outrages and atrocities in the vicinity have reached me, and I have done everything in my power to ascertain their truth, but in every case, when investigated on the spot they resolved themselves when they had any foundation at all into cases of ordinary brigandage such as have always occurred, and must exist in such thinly populated countries as this, and which are no worse, but, on the contrary, attended with less cruelty and violence than similar acts daily committed under Governments considered civilized, such as Spain and Italy.

I have also to report that his Excellency the Governor of this district has shown the utmost anxiety to repress brigandage, and has lately offered a reward of 25*l.* for the capture or head of each brigand belonging to a band of Sug, who appear to have committed most of the crimes complained of.

The difficulty of suppressing these acts is much increased by the indisposition of the peasantry, both Turks and Christians, to give any information regarding the hiding-places of the robbers.

I have not heard of the pillage or devastation of a single village in the Dobrudja, and in a journey I lately made, quite unattended, throughout that district, I found the country perfectly tranquil, and the Christian peasantry going about their avocations in the ordinary manner.

Though the place referred to is not in my district, I cannot forbear referring to a statement in the "Daily News" of the 11th instant, concerning the pillage of these villages in the Dobrudja near Tulchta, accompanied by acts of frightful atrocity, having every reason to believe there are no villages to be found near Tulchta, nor in the whole Dobrudja, as showing how, in the present excited state of public opinion, people can be got to accept unfounded rumours without investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 218.

Consul Sanderson to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Toultcha, September* 29, 1876.

TOULTCHA quite quiet, visited Preslau and adjacent villages, no disturbances, other villages mentioned not in Dobrudja, but in neighbourhood of Shumla. To visit them should go by steamer to Varna; please telegraph instructions here.

No. 219.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1091. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous dispatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that when Mr. Forster furnished me with the paper upon the reported outrages in the Dobrudscha, I gathered from him that they had been communicated to him by persons styling themselves members of a charitable association at Bucharest, which is, in fact, the revolutionary committee long established at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 220

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1092.)
Therapia, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the extract of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, respecting the state of things in the Sandjak of Philippopoli, and the measures of relief adopted by the Government.

The part which I do not forward refers only to proceedings connected with the distribution of relief by the private committee formed here for that purpose.

I likewise inclose copies of two Reports from Mr. Baring. That from Tatar-Bazardjik shows that little or nothing has yet been done either to provide for the safety of the people or to punish those whose guilt is notorious.

I at once sent strong remonstrances to the Porte, which I repeated last night to Midhat Pasha.

His Highness promised that he would speak this morning to the Grand Vizier and

the Minister of War about the necessity of sending troops and police and of disarming the Pomaks, the urgency of which measures he recognized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, September* 27, 1876.

AS I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my telegram (despatch No. 13) of Thursday last, September 21, the Turkish Commissioner under Sadoullah Bey, before starting for Bazardjik, appointed two local Commissions to visit the burnt villages in the Caza of Philippopoli, eighteen in number, ascertain the exact number of houses to be rebuilt, and superintend their reconstruction. Besides these, a third Commission was at the same time instituted by Sadoullah Bey, to attend to the restitution of stolen live-stock. The sphere of action of these three Commissions is confined to the Caza of Philippopoli; for the Caza of Bazardjik, which, as your Excellency is aware, contains a far larger number of burnt villages, Sadoullah Bey intended to organize separate Commissions, regarding which Mr. Baring, who started yesterday for Bazardjik, will no doubt report in due time to your Excellency.

The Commissions in question consist of local functionaries and notables, and each is composed of a Mussulman president, a Christian and a Mussulman member, and a secretary,—four persons in all.

The sum which Sadoullah Bey brought with him for immediate wants is 5,000, not 3,000 Turkish pounds, as I understood at first.

The Turkish authorities here estimate the cost of rebuilding the eighteen burnt villages of the "caza" at a maximum of 30,000 Turkish pounds.

The necessity of increasing the military and police force of this sandjak has not diminished since I had the honour of calling your Excellency's attention to the subject in my despatch of September 10. The inhabitants of the burnt villages stand so much in dread of the Pomaks that they dare not go to the forests to cut wood for new dwellings, whilst the Pomaks make continual raids on the shelterless people, and take what few things they possess.

Mr. Clarke, of Samakow, informs me that at Batak some Pomaks, passing through the other day, took, without paying for it, twenty okes of barley for their horses.

Mr. Clarke also tells me that a young man of Radilowo—one of the burnt villages—was on September 9th murdered in a wood where he had gone to cut planks, and his horse carried off.

I abstain from citing any of the numerous cases of the same kind that are related to me by villagers, as it is possible that they are not all true. Allowing for exaggeration it is, nevertheless, positive that the situation of the Bulgarian peasantry is at present intolerable, and will continue to be so as long as the one available means of protection is wanting, viz., a large reinforcement of police.

Each village should have at least a couple of zaptiehs responsible for any outrages committed in their neighbourhood. Most of the zaptiehs now employed in the sandjak are utterly untrustworthy. They are natives of Bulgaria, are long in arrears of pay, and, consequently, are in some measure obliged to resort to extortion or open robbery.

In regard to the distress in the villages, I have just telegraphed to your Excellency the fact reported to me by Mr. Clarke, that a wintry temperature already prevails at Batak. It is superfluous for me to point out how urgent is the need of succour in the form of clothing and coverings.

Next to nothing has yet been done in the way of rebuilding at Batak, but the Turkish Commission has just visited the place and given the orders which it deemed requisite.

Mr. Clarke, who yesterday came here to consult with me as to his course of action, has begun to have a building erected at Batak which will serve as a hospital, typhus and dysentery being now very prevalent and fatal. He proposes to erect as soon as possible similar hospitals at Radilowo, Peroushtitzza, and Clissoura.

Although no medical men are to be had he believes that much can be done for the sick by providing shelter, clean quarters, proper nourishment, and a few simple medicines.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, September 26, 1876.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that, from all I can gather here, no visible improvement has taken place in the condition of the Bulgarian villagers.

But a very short time ago, in the neighbourhood of Yeni-Mahalle, the Turks forced a number of Bulgarians to thresh maize, ill-treating those who ventured to say that they had their own crops to look after.

This is one case, but I am assured the same thing is going on throughout the Province.

Saadoullah Bey's Commission left on Saturday for Tatar-Bazardjik (to which place I intend going this afternoon), and were to have visited Batak on Sunday.

They have appointed sub-Commissions here to see to the rebuilding of houses, and to the restoration of stolen cattle for this caza, and a sum of 5,000 Turkish pounds is said to have been placed at their disposal by Government.

As regards the houses, the plan to be followed is that skilled labour and nails should be sent by the Commission from here, that wood and other building materials should be given from Government forests, &c., and that the neighbours, Turkish as well as Christian, should undertake all transport.

I fear it is not too much to say that the greater part of this forced labour will fall on Bulgarians, who can ill afford to give it.

It is true that houses may not have been burnt, but still there is hardly a village in the Province which has not been more or less impoverished by plunder.

At Perouschtitza I hear that the Building Commission is really beginning to do something; the poorest are to have their houses rebuilt gratis, whereas those who are not quite destitute are to repay, in time, the expenses incurred.

I regret to say that much sickness prevails in the ravaged districts, the effect, of course, of privations of every description; thus diarrhœa and dysentery are raging at Zindjiali, and typhus and intermittent fevers at Batak.

No troops have been sent here from Constantinople; the 3,000 men who left last week, and some of whom were said to be destined to garrison this town, went on to the seat of war. The consequence is that an uneasy feeling prevails among the Christians, which has been considerably increased by an inflammatory document, circulated about a fortnight ago among the Mussulman population, some account of which I will give your Excellency in another despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Tatar-Bazardjik, September 27, 1876.

Sir,

ON arriving here yesterday evening I found that Saadoullah Bey's commission had not yet returned from the Batak district; as, however, they are expected to-day, I think it right to await their arrival.

The Mutessarif of Philippopoli being ill I was unfortunately unable to see him before leaving, but the day before yesterday I saw the Cadi and asked him whether Achmed Aga, of Dospat, or any other leaders of Bashi-Bazouks had been arrested.

The Cadi was evidently unwilling to speak about this; he had recourse to prevarication, and said that as it was the Pasha's business to decide upon such matters he could give me no information.

Some say that Achmed Aga and Ali Pehlivan were arrested when Blacque Bey was here but immediately set at liberty again; others say that no arrests have been made at all.

One thing is quite clear, viz., that none of those who committed the atrocities are in prison now, and the natural supposition is that the authorities are restrained by one of two reasons from taking proper action in the matter. Either they are afraid that arrests would cause a Mussulman outbreak, or they fear the revelations the leaders of the Bashi-Bazouks could make respecting the instructions they received from different quarters as to how they should conduct themselves towards the villages they attacked.

If they dread a rising of the Turks I think their fears are by no means groundless. The vast majority of the Mussulman population look upon the perpetrators of the horrors not as criminals but as heroes, who for their praiseworthy efforts to extirpate a noxious race have deserved well of their country. This idea the Government, in the first instance, did much to encourage by dealing out with a liberal hand decorations and rewards to such miscreants as Achmed Aga.

Supposing, therefore, that the Commission resolves to effect arrests, the Mussulmans will naturally be astonished at this sudden change of policy on the part of their own Government, and will think, very rightly, that it is due to foreign pressure.

At present twenty-four hours residence in a place like this is sufficient to show one how bitter are the feelings of the Mussulmans against the Christians, and that the position of the latter is simply intolerable. Not a day passes without the Rayahs being insulted, threatened, and made to feel their inferiority.

Such being the state of things it is not difficult to foresee what would be the result if the authorities attempted to arrest any prominent Mussulmans without a sufficient force to insure their orders being respected.

If the Porte is really in earnest and means to see justice done in the present instance, it must send troops enough to make the Mussulmans thoroughly understand that resistance on their part would be useless. For this purpose about 3,000 men should be sent to Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, Peshtera, Otlonkeui, Karlowo, and a few other places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

P.S.—I have just seen Dr. Vlados, who has been with the Commission; they will be at Peshtera all to-morrow, and I therefore propose going to join them there in the morning.

W. B.

No. 221.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 1097.)

Therapia, October 2, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further Report from Sir Arnold Kemball describing the manner in which the suspension of hostilities was severally kept by the contending armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, September 25, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin four telegrams* (A B C and D) forwarded by me to your Excellency as dated respectively.

The Turks continue to observe with good faith the order they received to suspend hostilities pending the course of negotiations at Constantinople.

The Servians, on the contrary, daily throw shells on any considerable parties of men and horses which they may observe to be watering or foraging between the heights of the Turkish position and the line of the Turkish out-posts extending on the plains southward and eastward from the trestle bridge (where the extreme western head of the river almost touches the base of these heights) for a distance of about three miles to a point south-west (about one mile) from the tête-de-pont. Within this line are situated the villages† occupied (and destroyed) by our forces after the battle of Friday, the 1st instant, as also the wells and cultivation from which the troops on this side drew their supplies of water and fodder.

Prior to the "arrangement," which, for facility of explanation, I call "armistice," the

* Subsequently communicated to Lord in Office by Telegraph.

† A few of the villages were occupied (Yaroshevatz and Kolitchevatz) after the battle and the withdrawal of the Servian troops, but they contained but few houses.

ground beyond this line was frequently invaded by foragers, but I can myself certify that since that period the orders against transgressing the limits so defined have been strictly observed, Bashi-Bazouk stragglers having been themselves fired upon by the Turkish pickets.

In the rear the case is somewhat different. The advance brigade of Hafiz Pasha occupies, on the extreme left of the Turkish position, the north-eastern extremity of the same crest on which the Servian division after the attack of Monday (the 11th instant) permanently established itself.

The ravine which separates that division from the Turkish right-rear also intervenes between the brigade of Hafiz Pasha and the Turkish left centre. Here, where it widens and opens upon the valley of the Morava, it is in some degree exposed to the guns of the Servian division. To prevent their encroaching within effective range and molesting the communications within our lines, self-defence has required that "shot for shot" should be returned to the enemy's fire.

The Servian division in question covers the road to Krusewatz, and its efforts are constantly directed to secure and fortify its position.

The enemy is supposed to be daily receiving reinforcements, comprising a large proportion of Russian volunteers, and he is observed to be strengthening the lines of Alexinatz and Deligrad, but we can obtain no information of the force at his disposal or of its distribution. We are even ignorant of the names of the several officers in command.

Forage is failing, and with the lapse of the season a prolonged armistice, unless peace be eventually secured, must operate most prejudicially for the cause of the Turks.

I inclose in original and translation the deposition of the prisoner of war who was captured on Friday night (22nd).

On the last two nights, Saturday and Sunday, the enemy again opened musketry fire from their position in the plain, in the direction of the trestle bridge, but failing to elicit a response, ceased the attempt to bring on a conflict with the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

Examination of Milasa Radotonich, taken prisoner September $\frac{12}{24}$, 1876.

D. QUEL est votre nom?—*R.* Milasa Radotonich.

D. De quelle pays êtes vous?—*R.* Du village de Rogobavach, du district de Krajugevach.

D. De quelle classe de soldats êtes vous?—*R.* Je suis de la classe séparée de soldats-travailleurs (Dronjo classe). Quand on m'a amené à Alexinatz c'est alors qu'on m'a donné le bonnet de soldat et l'arme.

D. Dans le conflit d'hier soir de quel bataillon étiez-vous?—*R.* Dans le bataillon de Savn Popovitch, et dans la compagnie de Petrani; ce bataillon appartient à la brigade de Krajugevatz, mais je ne sais pas le numéro de bataillon.

D. Est-ce à Krajugevatz ou à Alexinatz que vous êtes entré dans ce bataillon?—*R.* A Krajugevatz.

D. Combien de mois y a-t-il que ce bataillon est arrivé à Alexinatz?—*R.* Environ trois mois.

D. Quel est le nom de votre caporal?—*R.* Sava; et je suis le premier soldat de son escouade.

D. Combien de bataillons de l'autre côté du pont (où a eu lieu le conflit).—*R.* Je ne sais pas; nous étions près du pont à côté d'Alexinatz. Le soir nous sommes venus pour relever ceux qui se trouvaient au pont.

D. Le bataillon que vous avez relevé, où est-il allé?—*R.* Je ne sais pas où il est allé.

D. Combien y a-t-il de troupes au village au delà du pont?—*R.* Je ne suis pas. Nous étions sur les hauteurs près d'Alexinatz, occupé à faire des fortifications.

D. Où est Chernaieff?—*R.* Je ne suis pas; s'il était de Krajugevatz, je l'aurais su.

D. Y a-t-il beaucoup d'officiers Russes?—*R.* Quant à mon bataillon il y en a six; pour les autres je n'en sais rien.

D. Comment se fait-il que vous êtes passé hier soir de ce côté-ci, et de quel côté sont partis les coups de fusil?—*R.* Nous avons prié les Russes de ne pas nous faire tirer, nos soldats étaient venus prendre de l'eau, les Russes ont tiré, et nous ont obligés de tirer; et

les officiers Russes disent qu'ils n'avaient pas l'ordre de vous laisser prendre de l'eau, et que nous devions absolument faire feu, et ils nous y excitent toujours. Dans la journée même notre chef-de-bataillon nous avait donné l'ordre de ne pas tirer, et le plus souvent dans la journée les officiers Russes tirent leurs revolvers sur vos soldats qui viennent prendre de l'eau, et puis ils retournent en riant.

D. Y a-t-il de troupes dans la forêt au delà du pont?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, parceque notre occupation était de travailler aux fortifications; mais j'ai vu qu'à Deligrad il y a beaucoup de troupes.

D. Pour quelle raison faites-vous ces grands feux?—*R.* Une fois nous avons fait des feux pour la naissance du fils du Prince, et une fois encore parceque disait-on le Prince était devenu Roi.

D. A quelle âge devenez-vous soldat?—*R.* Maintenant pour cette guerre ils nous ont pris sous les armes depuis dix-huit jusqu'à soixante-dix ans.

D. Y a-t-il des hôpitaux à Alexinatz?—*R.* Quand nous travaillons à faire les routes toutes les maisons étoient hôpitaux, et à Deligrad il y a aussi des barraques pour hôpitaux. Il y a beaucoup de malades. Les malades sont envoyés à Parachin, Deligrad, Semindria, et Kuchevatz.

D. Quel est l'âge de soldat dans chaque classe?—*R.* La première classe renferme les hommes de vingt à trente ans, qui sont destinés au combat. Les soldats-travailleurs sont des catégories dépassant la première classe de dix-huit à soixante.

D. Etes-vous payé par le Gouvernement?—*R.* Pas un sou nous ne recevons du Gouvernement.

D. Les habitants d'Alexinatz où sont-ils?—*R.* Ils se trouvent du côté du Parachin et Gagodina, et dans les montagnes boisées derrière Belgrade, où ils se sont fait des huttes.

D. Pour combien de jours vous a-t-on donné l'ordre de ne pas tirer?—*R.* Il viendra un officier de Deligrad (disent-on), et jusqu'à son arrivée il ne faudrait pas tirer. Après son arrivée on agirait selon les ordres.

D. Qui est cet officier supérieur?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

D. Nous entendons que les officiers Russes tirent sur ceux de vous qui ne sont pas en avant au combat, est-ce vrai?—*R.* Mois aussi je l'ai entendu, mais ne m'étant jamais trouvé au combat, je ne l'ai pas vu.

D. Vous avez dit que dans votre bataillon il y plusieurs officiers Russes, comment sont-ils leur commandement?—*R.* Un de ces officiers est supérieur à notre chef-de-bataillon, les autres se mettent en arrière des compagnies; le Commandant nous avons prié, comme il y a maintenant la paix, de ne plus tirer. Les Russes nous disent qu'il ne faut pas laisser prendre de l'eau, et si vous ne tirez pas sur ceux qui viennent en prendre, nous tireront sur vous. L'ordre donné au commencement était que dans le cas où les Turcs passeraient le Morava nous devions tirer, mais de ne pas tirer s'ils viennent prendre de l'eau et causer avec nous; mais les officiers Russes, agissant contre ces ordres, nous ont forcés à tirer aussi sur ceux qui venaient prendre de l'eau.

D. Vous vous trouvez à votre aise ici, pourquoi ne passez-vous pas de nôtre côté?—*R.* Nos officiers nous disent que si nous passons du côté des Turcs ils nous rôtiraient à la broche, mais je vois maintenant que vous ne faites rien de mal.

D. Comment avez-vous été fait prisonnier?—*R.* Le soir j'étais endormi dans les rétranchements qui sont loin en arrière du pont lorsque les nôtres ont commencé de faire feu, et d'après les ordres des officiers Russes, mon van-boshi nous a ordonné de nous lever et d'avancer en tirant. Nous sommes avancés en ligne de tirailleurs jusqu'à ce que le feu ralentit et l'ordre fut donné de se rassembler, alors ne sachant pas où j'étais en avançant je me suis égaré, et arrivant sur le pont je fus fait prisonnier par les Turcs en croyant que le pont était à nous.

No. 222.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 175. Political.)

Cettigné, October 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at Cettigné yesterday evening, and was received at the hotel by one of the Prince's aides-de-camp.

His Highness has been absent for four days; and has kept his exact whereabouts a secret; although he is known to have gone to the Albanian frontier. He is expected to

return to-night; but I hardly count upon having the honour of an audience in time to report by the early post to-morrow.

I was received this afternoon by the Princess. Her Highness expressed great gratification at my arrival; and was good enough to say that she was convinced that Prince Nicholas would be exceedingly pleased to find that Her Majesty's Government had authorized me to visit Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 223.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 176. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 1, 1876.*

AS I have frequently had occasion in my official correspondence to remark upon Mr. Stillman's language, and the tone of his communications to the "Times," I think it an act of strict justice to state that from all I have heard since my arrival at Cettigné, I am sure that he has latterly been employing the influence which he undoubtedly possesses with Prince Nicholas in the direction of peace, and in opposition to M. Yonine. He has now left Cettigné, and is on his way to England, having resigned his position as "Times" correspondent.

As far as I have yet had time to inform myself, I find the state of affairs at Cettigné, as reported in my recent despatches, to have been very accurately described to me both by him and by M. Durando.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 224.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sentari, October 9, 1876.*

THIS morning Turkish Commander-in-chief marched from Spuz in considerable force (towards?) plain of Bielopavlicka, where fighting is now going on.

No. 225.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 9, 1876, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday to Sir A. Buchanan, expressing the hope that Austria would give the Porte no encouragement to persist in an attitude of obdurate refusal, it may be right for me to inform your Lordship that the Austrian Ambassador here has exerted himself to the utmost in urging the Porte to accept conditions proposed by your Lordship, and to consent to an armistice.

No. 226.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1876, 11 A.M.*

I AM informed that, at the earnest solicitation of the Sultan, the Grand Vizier has withdrawn his resignation.

No. 227.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1876, 11 A.M.*

A DESPATCH from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, which I forward by messenger to-day, states that he learns from Poti that 150,000 troops are now ready for immediate action on the Russo-Turkish frontier, most of them being at Alexandropol.

Torpedoes are arriving at Odessa to be laid down in the bay.

No. 228.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 10, 1876, 12·5 A.M.*

I LEARN that Minister of Finance left for Livadia this evening.

No. 229.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 10, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK has heard from Constantinople and Rome that Sir H. Elliot has been instructed to leave Constantinople if the armistice is refused.

Prince Bismarck says to General Bülow that it is very important he should know whether this is true, so as to form his policy accordingly.

Please let me know whether I may communicate your confidential telegram of the 5th to Sir H. Elliot to General Bülow or not.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 631.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 10, 1876.*

THE German Ambassador asked me this afternoon what action Her Majesty's Government were inclined to take upon the complaint addressed by the Greek Government to the European Powers as to the formation of fresh Circassian colonies in the Greek provinces of Turkey.

I told Count Münster in general terms that, without entering into the question how far the Greek Government were entitled to remonstrate on the subject, except in cases where the tranquillity of their own frontier was likely to be affected, we were disposed to consider that the establishment of such colonies in the European provinces of Turkey was an ill-advised and impolitic measure, and that we were ready to advise the Porte in that sense. Sir Henry Elliot had, indeed, been already instructed to mention the matter to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 633.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 10, 1876.*

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to communicate confidentially to Herr von Bülow the telegraphic instructions which I have sent to Sir Henry Elliot on the 5th instant, directing him to inform the Turkish Government that he was instructed to leave Constantinople if they should persist in refusing their consent to an armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 232.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated confidentially to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 10.)

Légation de Grèce, à Londres, le Octobre, 1876.

Monsieur,

L'IDEE d'ériger la Bulgarie, la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine en Principautés autonomes, sous la suzeraineté de la Turquie, paraît acquérir de jour en jour plus de consistance dans les cercles diplomatiques.

Avant qu'une pareille décision soit prise et exécutée par la diplomatie Européenne, nous croyons devoir élever notre voix pour éclairer les Gouvernements de l'Europe sur les suites probables. Nous sommes d'autant plus obligé de le faire, que cet acte d'une haute importance, destiné à modifier l'état des choses en Orient, ne manquera pas d'avoir pour la Grèce des résultats immédiats; car toute injustice commise à l'égard des Grecs de la Turquie ne pourrait qu'avoir son contre-coup parmi leurs frères de la Grèce libre, et créer au Gouvernement lui-même des embarras d'une portée facile à concevoir. En effet il est hors de doute que ces faveurs exceptionnelles accordées aux races Slaves amèneront, dans un avenir plus ou moins prochain, le soulèvement des races Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, et il est démontré par l'histoire que toutes les fois que des troubles ont éclaté dans les provinces Grecques de la Turquie, la Grèce a été la première à en souffrir, à cause des dépenses extraordinaires auxquelles elle était entraînée pour subvenir à l'entretien des personnes qui venaient chercher un asile sur son territoire, pour réprimer le brigandage, et faire face à d'autres besoins qui lui étaient impérieusement commandés par la situation.

Indépendamment de ces raisons, nous aimons à espérer que les Grandes Puissances, qui en leur qualité de Puissances Chrétiennes ont de tout temps témoigné leur intérêt en faveur des populations non-Musulmanes de la Turquie, voudront bien nous permettre de nous intéresser aussi au même titre au sort de nos frères d'Orient. L'identité de religion, les liens de langue et d'origine, et surtout les obligations morales, que la Grèce a dans ces derniers temps contractées envers les populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, en leur imposant la tranquillité que l'Europe exigeait, nous font même de cette sollicitude un devoir sacré, qui, nous aimons à l'espérer, sera apprécié par les Puissances à sa juste valeur.

Vous n'ignorez pas, Monsieur, que le Gouvernement Hellénique, obéissant à la voix des Puissances Européennes qui voulaient éviter, à tout prix, une conflagration générale en Orient, n'a pas laissé les races Grecques de la Turquie profiter des circonstances favorables, que l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud offrait à l'accomplissement de leurs aspirations nationales.

Bien loin de raviver ces aspirations et de tisonner le feu qui couve depuis longtemps en Candie et dans les autres provinces Grecques de la Turquie, le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est imposé au contraire la triste et ingrate tâche de mettre un frein à l'ardeur insurrectionnelle de nos frères en religion et en nationalité. Ainsi, non seulement nous nous sommes abstenus d'aggraver la situation, en provoquant des mouvements qui, par la force des faits accomplis, auraient créé aux Grecs de la Turquie, et notamment aux habitants des îles, d'Epire, de Thessalie et de Macédoine, au moins les mêmes droits à l'attention de l'Europe que l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud a créé à la Bulgarie et aux notres provinces révoltées de l'Empire Ottomane, mais tout au contraire nous avons contribué, par notre attitude d'abstention et notre action même sur nos frères en Turquie, à isoler le foyer de l'insurrection et à faciliter l'œuvre de la pacification que l'Europe désirait si vivement.

En agissant ainsi la Grèce libre s'attirait l'approbation des Grandes Puissances et faisait avec raison espérer aux provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane que la diplomatie Européenne ne manquerait pas, au moment critique et décisif, d'apprécier cette conduite à sa juste valeur et de tenir compte aux populations Grecques de la contenance gardée par eux pendant l'insurrection des Slaves du Sud.

Or l'heure propice paraît enfin près de sonner, et la diplomatie Européenne, lasse d'un état de choses gros de danger, et soucieuse de l'avenir, se décide d'intervenir entre la Sublime Porte et ses vassaux révoltés, pour rétablir la paix.

Malheureusement elle paraît croire qu'elle aura assez fait pour asseoir ce nouvel édifice sur de bases solides et pour assurer à l'avenir la tranquillité de l'Orient, si elle concentre tout son action d'améliorer le sort des populations Slaves de la Turquie, qui ont protesté contre l'autorité de la Porte les armes à la main. Quant aux autres races qui se sont tenus tranquilles, non parcequ'elles n'avaient pas souffert, mais seulement parcequ'on leur avait imposé le silence, la diplomatie Européenne paraît les avoir totalement oubliées.

Elle fait même semblant de les ignorer, et dans toutes les combinaisons, dont la

diplomatie a eu à s'occuper ces derniers jours, il n'est nullement question d'une amélioration du sort des populations Grecques de la Turquie.

Vous connaissez, Monsieur, depuis longtemps la pensée du Gouvernement Royal sur une pareille éventualité. Je n'ai pas manqué de vous en faire part, dès le commencement même de la guerre actuelle en Orient, et dès les premières exhortations à la paix, que les Grandes Puissances nous ont itérativement adressées.

J'ai bien des fois attiré votre attention sur cette question de haute et vitale importance pour la Grèce, et je vous ai prié de bien vouloir communiquer mes idées au Gouvernement Britannique en y ajoutant tous les développements que comportait la question. Aussi n'aurai-je peut-être pas besoin d'y revenir, si l'urgence des circonstances ne m'en faisait un devoir. Le Gouvernement Hellénique est responsable vis-à-vis des Grecs de la Turquie de la prolongation de leurs souffrances. Il sent tout le poids de la responsabilité qu'il a assumée et se croit un devoir de déclarer en toute franchise aux Cabinets Européens, qu'une mesure quelconque, tendant à améliorer le sort d'une partie des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie, pour en laisser les autres sous le poids de leur situation actuelle, ne serait ni juste ni sage. Elle ne serait pas juste parceque les populations Grecques ont aussi des droits à l'attention de la diplomatie Européenne, tant pour avoir enduré au moins les mêmes maux que les Slaves insurgés. Si elles n'ont pas saisi les armes pour obtenir leur émancipation, ce n'est pas le courage qui leur a fait défaut, mais bien la volonté. On n'a qu'à consulter l'histoire moderne de la race Grecque pour voir combien de fois le peuple Grec s'est levé pour secouer le joug Ottoman, et combien de fois il a versé son sang et subi toutes les atrocités d'une guerre d'extermination pour reconquérir son indépendance politique. La lutte de 1821, qui a dévasté pendant huit ans le sol de la Grèce, est encore récente, et la destruction de Chio, les carnages d'Haïvali et de Psara, le pillage et la dévastation de toute la patrie de la Grèce continentale, qui fut de nouveau replacée sous le joug Ottoman, sont encore vivants dans toutes les mémoires. Le mouvement de 1854, étouffé par la diplomatie Européenne, et qui a amené l'occupation même de notre capitale, date presque d'hier. Les insurrections réitérées de l'Ile de Crète, qui ont encore dernièrement, il y a dix ans à peine, ensanglanté ses montagnes, sont autant de pages éloquentes, qui peuvent attester, non seulement l'amour du peuple Grec pour l'indépendance, mais aussi les sacrifices qu'il a subis en la révendiquant.

La mesure diplomatique dont il s'agit ne pourrait non plus remédier à la situation; car, loin de tranquilliser l'Orient et de consolider la paix à l'avenir, elle ne manquerait pas de prêcher par des faits cette fois aux populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottomane, cette maxime si contraire aux vues de l'Europe, à savoir: que les sympathies de la diplomatie à leurs maux et le changement de leurs destinées ne pourraient être obtenu que par des révolutions. Les exhortations des Cabinets Européens ne sauraient plus les calmer ni les contenir. Le Gouvernement Ottoman est toujours là pour les forcer à tout moment à recourir aux armes, et le Gouvernement Hellénique n'aurait plus la force de leur imposer une tranquillité qui aurait pour résultat infaillible de leur enlever leurs plus chères espérances.

Voilà, Monsieur, la perspective rien moins que rassurante pour la paix, qui ne manquerait pas de naître des mesures diplomatiques qui font aujourd'hui l'objet des préoccupations des Cabinets Européens.

Le Gouvernement du Roi croit devoir faire part de ces craintes aux Grandes Puissances, mûrant pour accomplir un devoir sacré, imposé par sa position exceptionnelle, vis-à-vis des populations Helléniques de la Turquie, que pour sauvegarder sa responsabilité à l'avenir.

En vous priant de bien vouloir entretenir de l'objet de ma présente M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne, et de lui communiquer, dans la mesure que vous jugerez nécessaire, les idées que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous exposer, je vous prie, &c.

No. 233.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 96. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1876.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me by appointment this afternoon, and communicated to me, confidentially, the despatch of which I inclose a copy,* relative to the evil effects which are likely to ensue if, in the action of the Powers to obtain improved

* See No. 232.

administration for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, no account is taken of the claim of the Greek Provinces of Turkey to similar benefits.

With regard to the first paragraph of this despatch, in which it is stated that the idea of erecting the three above-named provinces into autonomous Principalities under the suzerainty of the Porte is daily acquiring consistency in diplomatic circles, I told M. Gennadius that as far as I was aware no such project had been suggested or discussed among the six Powers.

As to the claim of the other European Provinces of Turkey to participate in such administrative reforms as might be susceptible of general application, I said there seemed to be many arguments in favour of such a course, and from what I had recently heard from Constantinople the Porte seemed disposed to take the same view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 234.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 497. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador told me this afternoon, but as his personal opinion merely, that he thought it not unlikely that his Government would insist on the exclusion of any Turkish representative from the Conference now proposed. In taking this view his Government would probably be influenced by the following considerations:—

1. It would be undesirable that the Representative of the Porte should be witness to any differences that may exist between the Powers, until these have been settled and the result of the agreement can be submitted to the Porte as a proposal from the united Powers.

2. If it should be necessary for the Conference to obtain evidence or information from delegates or others competent to speak as to the state of the disturbed Provinces and the requirements of the population, these would not be able to speak freely in the presence of the representative of their own Government.

3. If the Porte is represented in a Conference at Constantinople, the Turkish Plenipotentiary will, by diplomatic rule, be entitled to preside over the meeting, which would be inconvenient, and would place the other Plenipotentiaries in a false position. This would be an objection to the Conference being held at Constantinople, which would otherwise seem to be the most convenient place of meeting.

Count Schouvaloff suggested as one method of avoiding these difficulties, that the first sittings of the Conference should be held by the representatives of the six Powers merely, and that the Turkish Government should be invited to send a representative to take part in the discussion as soon as a definitive plan had been agreed upon, at all events in its broader features, which could be submitted to the consideration of the Porte.

His Excellency having explained that the above suggestion was merely the expression of his personal opinion, and that he had not the authority of his Government in making it, I reserved my opinion, merely saying that his Excellency's views should have the fullest consideration on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 235.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 484.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and read to me a telegram which he had received from his Government, and which is to the following effect:—

Signor Melegari had heard from Constantinople that the British Ambassador had made a communication to the Turkish Government demanding an armistice of not less than a month, in the event of the previous proposals of the Guaranteeing Powers being refused by the Porte, the conclusion of the armistice to be at once followed by a Conference. Sir H. Elliot had further stated that if the armistice were refused, he had

instructions to leave Constantinople. The Representatives of the other Powers had met the same evening to agree upon the course to be pursued, and had decided to go to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the next day to support the demand for an armistice made by Sir H. Elliot.

The Italian Government, Signor Melegari continues, have repeated to their Representative at Constantinople the instructions already given him to support the step taken by the British Ambassador, and to endeavour to make his colleagues take the same view as the Italian Government as to the expediency of destroying any hopes which the Porte may entertain of finding means in the dissensions of some of the Powers to elude the propositions which have been made to it.

The Ambassador of Russia made the following communication to Signor Melegari on the 8th instant:—

"If the armistice is agreed upon, Russia will consent to the Conference proposed by England, on condition that it shall only be composed of Representatives of the Six Great Powers, without the participation of the Porte, which should merely pronounce on the issue of the deliberations of the Conference. If the armistice is refused, Russia will break off diplomatic relations with the Porte. Austria has promised to do the same. It is believed that Germany will not remain behindhand. It would be desirable that the attitude of the other Governments should be identical."

Signor Melegari says that the Italian Government do not clearly understand the reasons for which Her Majesty's Government now propose a Conference, since it has long been known that Russia was desirous of substituting the action of the Six Great Powers for that of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, of which the Porte is also one. It is known that Russia is inflexible upon this point, and if the armistice is accepted by the Porte, there is reason to expect differences of opinion on the subject of the Conference that is to ensue which will render an agreement very difficult, as Russia is so absolutely bent on the exclusion of Turkey.

The Italian Government had taken time to examine Prince Gortchakow's proposals, but thought it well to call attention to the fact that, in the communications made to the Powers by Austria and Russia as to the determinations arrived at between themselves, there was no question of consulting other than the Christian Powers who were to be called upon to deliberate in case the principle of non-intervention could not be maintained.

General Menabrea, after making this communication, asked me whether I was aware that the Russian Government intended to insist on the condition named above, namely, that no Representative of the Porte should be admitted to the Conference. I said I had received no communication to that effect; that I thought it likely that Prince Gortchakow might prefer the absence to the presence of a Turkish Representative, but that I had not been informed, either privately or officially, that this condition was likely to be treated as a *sine qua non*. In that case, I foresaw serious difficulties; but for the present, I thought it better to reserve my opinion on the question at issue, not knowing how it would be looked at by other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 236.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 45. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September* 29, 1876.

SINCE the departure of the Servians from their fortifications along the banks of the Drina, the Turks have remained entirely on the defensive. The Turkish force at Belina was considered too weak to make a forward movement, and I hear that Vely Pasha will shortly return here.

As to what is passing at Alexinatz and elsewhere in Servia there is no kind of information here beyond mere rumour.

I hear that Moukhtar Pasha is still at Grahova in rather an awkward position, as he has great difficulty in keeping open his communications with Trebigné.

The authorities here are in great want of money to provide for the maintenance of the troops, and it is of the greatest importance that the Porte should speedily make good its promises of forwarding the necessary funds. The usual army contractors refuse to furnish anything more until they are paid what is owing to them. The troops cannot be left unprovided for without the risk of serious consequences.

The Sultan's Firman, already published in the newspapers, was read here yesterday. People seem to regard these firmans as mere formalities, without any real signification, and they do not seem to excite the smallest interest.

Peace is earnestly desired by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 237.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 46. Political.)
Bosna Serai, September 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, concerning the position of Moukhtar Pasha in Montenegro, and stating that information of an armistice having been concluded between the Porte and Montenegro has been received at Mostar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, September 21, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Moukhtar Pasha has, as yet, made no attempt at any further advance into Montenegro. He still occupies the same position at Zaslop as on the first day of his entry into Grahovo, and has entrenched there his whole force of thirty battalions. The Montenegrins are entrenched opposite him, but neither army ventures to attack the other. I imagine that Moukhtar Pasha is at last convinced of the impossibility of penetrating into Montenegro by way of Grahovo, and his adversaries are probably only awaiting his retreat to take him at a disadvantage. There have been very heavy rains latterly in the Herzegovina and Moukhtar's troops, the majority of which are not even under canvass, are said to have suffered severely, and there is no doubt that they will be obliged before long to withdraw to Trebigné.

Information has been received here unofficially that a "tacit armistice" of ten days has been concluded between Montenegro and the Porte, and peace is already talked of as a certain event. The authorities, civil as well as military, profess displeasure, probably more feigned than real, at the notion of any arrangement being come to with Montenegro before she has been made to feel the power of the Porte, but I think that the native Mussulmans are rejoiced at the prospect of seeing this dilatory war brought to an end, by whatever means.

Moukhtar Pasha is said to have been named President of the "Dari-Shoura," or Council of War, but has orders to remain in the Herzegovina until the conclusion of the war. This is considered here as a further indication of approaching peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 238.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 47. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, September* 30, 1876.

AS I believe that the Turkish Government promised that the sentences awarded in the affair of the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica should be published throughout the Empire, I think it my duty to inform your Lordship that up to the present moment no allusion to them has been made in the official newspaper here, or, as far as I am aware, in any other manner.

Mr. Freeman reports to me that the same silence on this subject has been observed at Mostar, and on the French Vice-Consul there lately asking the Governor-General whether he had any intention of publishing the sentences passed on the various criminals now that the matter was ended, his Excellency replied that it was not his intention to do so, having received no such instructions from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 239.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to my cyphered telegram of this morning, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just seen the traffic manager of the Roumanian Railway, who tells me confidentially that they have been sounded from Russia respecting the rolling stock at their disposal for the conveyance of troops.

It appears that the Roumanian Railway could convey 5,000 men a day, or a corresponding force of horses and *matériel* without interfering with the ordinary traffic of goods or passengers; and by a partial suspension of goods trains, between 8,000 and 9,000 men.

That a train with troops would take (halts included) about forty-eight hours to pass from the Russian frontier at Ungheni in Moldavia to Turno-Severin on the Danube, opposite Khadova in Servia; or to Giurgevo, opposite Rustschuk, thirty hours; Galatz or Braila would be reached in eighteen hours from Ungheni.

There are several Turkish gun-boats lying in a branch of the Danube near Braila.

Some works have been lately thrown up at Widdin and other points—I believe at Sistova—but the fortifications at Silistria have been much neglected since 1854, and the whole line of the Danube is completely denuded of troops. As a rule the land is higher on the Bulgarian than on the Roumanian bank of the Danube, and Giurgevo, for instance, is completely commanded from Rustschuk.

From Bolgrad, on the Russian frontier to Ismail, would be about two or three days' march, but for a force entering Bulgaria at the latter point would have to traverse the entire length of the Dobrudsha, where provisions are scarce, and the whole district notoriously unhealthy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 240.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 498.)
Foreign Office, October 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Excellency in my despatch No. 477 of the 27th ultimo that I had thought it right to call the attention of the Russian Ambassador to the inconvenience and danger attendant upon the extraordinary influx of Russian volunteers into Servia. The extent to which this influx has taken place is well known to your Excellency, and is, indeed, a matter of notoriety; for there has been little or no attempt at concealment.

The inclosed copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest will show the embarrassment which has been caused to the Roumanian Government by the passage through their territory of a band of 300 Russian volunteers in such a manner as almost to amount to a military demonstration, and the steps which they have been compelled to take to avoid the recurrence of an incident which might give legitimate ground of remonstrance to the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of Prince Charles have some right to complain that their conscientious efforts to remain neutral in the present struggle, and not to give cause for the addition of fresh complications to those already existing, should be thwarted by the acts of private individuals, the subjects of a neighbouring and neutral State. If the transit of this body of volunteers through Roumanian territory approached so nearly to the appearance of a military expedition, its departure from the Russian frontier could scarcely bear a different signification.

The Government of Great Britain would be the last to suggest the repression of sympathy with a popular cause so long as it does not exceed the limits prescribed by international law. They have themselves done what lay in their power to assist the efforts made from England to relieve the sufferings of the wounded in the present contest. But the presence of Russian officers and soldiers in the Servian army has assumed proportions which fall little short of national assistance. It is stated that upwards of 15,000 Russian subjects have now joined the Servian cause, and it has even been reported that the officers who have resigned their commissions in the Russian army for this purpose have received promises of reinstatement in their former rank on their return to Russia.

If the Emperor of Russia is as sincerely desirous of a speedy and peaceful termination of the present disastrous struggle as Her Majesty's Government believe him to be, he can scarcely be insensible to the difficulties which are thus thrown in the way of a settlement. The assistance so openly given to Servia, with the presumed cognizance and permission of the Russian authorities, must tend to excite irritation in the minds of the Turkish Ministers and to make them suspicious of all attempts at pacification as only concealing designs for the benefit of their opponents. It cannot fail at the same time to raise the hopes of the Servian Government and to render them less inclined to listen to reasonable terms. Beyond this, there is the danger, which recent events have shown to be by no means imaginary, that the presence of so large a foreign element in the Servian army may lead to a spirit of insubordination, and constitute its commanders into military chiefs, independent and impatient of the control of Prince Milan's Government.

Her Majesty's Government would wish to press these considerations on the serious attention of the Emperor and his advisers, leaving it to them to decide how far the power which they must undoubtedly possess to check the movement in Russia, and above all in the Russian army, can be usefully and properly employed.

Your Excellency will take an opportunity of expressing yourself to the Russian Government in the same sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 241.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 499.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked me if I had received any confirmation of the report that the Turkish Government had agreed to an armistice.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had informed me by telegraph that the Grand Council had agreed to an armistice of five months' duration, and that this decision would be officially communicated to-day to the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Count Schouvaloff asked me what, in my opinion, was the next step to be taken.

I replied that it seemed to me in the first place essential, before entering into the question of a conference or other matters, to ensure the acceptance of the armistice by the other parties in the contest. From the insurgents, I did not think that much trouble was to be anticipated. The Prince of Montenegro, too, had lately shown a disposition for peace, and his acceptance of the armistice might reasonably be counted upon. It was only from the side of Servia that I saw cause to apprehend difficulties. There were now in the Servian army, from all accounts, not less than from 10,000 to 12,000 foreigners, most of whom were

Russians. It was not to be expected that these foreign volunteers would be in favour of a speedy pacification or of any measures likely to lead to such a result. I thought there was some occasion to fear the effect which the feeling of so large and powerful a body might have upon the decisions of the Servian Government, and I trusted that the Russian Government would use all their influence at Belgrade to counteract any warlike disposition. If they could do so, I thought there could be little doubt of success.

Count Schouvaloff told me he would at once report what I had stated to Prince Gortchakow, and that he had no doubt his Government would act as I requested. He himself felt sanguine of the acceptance of the armistice by Servia, as the Servian Government, when refusing the offer to prolong the suspension of arms, had stated their willingness to conclude a regular armistice.

I said that the time had now arrived to show whether they were sincere in that statement. I concluded by reminding his Excellency of a former conversation, in which he had said that it lay with England to induce Turkey to agree to an armistice, and with Russia to bring Servia to accept it. I said Her Majesty's Government had now done their part and they looked to Russia to perform hers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1876, 9:30 P.M.

GRAND Council has decided to agree to an armistice of five months. This decision will be officially communicated to us to-morrow, and the guaranteeing Powers will, I believe, be invited to make all the arrangements for carrying it out. I have informed Consul-General at Belgrade.

No. 243.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 10, 1876, 10:40 P.M.

FROM secret information received from a military source I learn that Russian proposal to occupy Turkish provinces conjointly with Austria was first declined by the latter, but on the threat of Russia occupying alone with double forces, was unwillingly agreed to, but with what reservations or on what conditions I am not informed.

Mobilization of troops in the four military circles of Kief, Kharkof, Odessa, and Caucasus is now preparing, and my informant stated that the preparations had gone so far that it will be difficult for Russia to withdraw.

Twelve millions of roubles have been actually spent in forage.

The visit of the Roumanian Minister to Livadia to compliment Emperor is also significant.

No. 245.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE pressed upon Count Beust and Count Schouvaloff the importance of their Governments inducing Servia to accept the armistice. Urge this also on Count Andrassy.

[To Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.]

Speak in the same sense to the Government to which you are accredited.

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* Repeated to Embassies.
† Sent also to Paris, Berlin, and Rome.

No. 246.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 11, 1876, noon.*

SERVIANS declare readiness to accept an armistice of one month or longer if offered in regular form.

Austrian and Russian Representatives have got instructions, but we cannot make formal proposal before hearing of acceptance by the Porte.

No. 247.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 11, 1876, 4·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram repeated to you from Constantinople, use your best endeavours to induce the Servian Government to accept the armistice without raising difficulties.

I have pressed on Russian, Austrian, and other Governments the importance of inducing Servia to accept.

No. 248.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 11, 1876, 6 P.M.*

I CONGRATULATE you on the success of your efforts to bring about an armistice. It is mainly due to your ability and perseverance.

I have pressed on the Russian and Austrian Governments the importance of inducing Servia to accept the armistice.

No. 249.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 11, 1876, 1.30 P.M.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 593 of September 27, inclosing copy of a letter published in the "Times" by the Rev. Thomas Smith about a Bulgarian girl who had been given to a Turkish soldier in payment of his wages, I telegraphed to Mr. Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, to ascertain all particulars of the case from the Anglican Bishop, and to try to find out the name of the soldier and of his commanding officer in order that I might have the case thoroughly investigated. I have received the following answer from him :—

"The Bishop says that he overheard some people in the street telling the story, and has no further information. I have myself made inquiries, with no result as yet, and will continue them."

No. 250.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 11, 1876, 4·10 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows to-day :—

"Prince Nicholas is very angry at the recent raid into the Herzegovina, which was made against his positive orders, and he has summoned the Commander of the expedition to cease hostilities.

"The Montenegrin strategy is to entice Moukhtar Pasha to advance, and then to fall upon his flanks and rear.

* Repeated to Embassies.

"Austrian Military Agent considers Dervish Pasha's advance as well planned and threatening.

"His Highness is dejected and unwell. Much discontent here at the delay of armistice."

No. 251.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 424.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 11, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador having called upon me to discuss the Turkish proposition for an armistice of five months' duration, I took the opportunity of urging strongly upon him the importance of inducing the Prince of Servia to accept the proposal without delay or objection. I expressed my fears lest the war party should be too strong both for Prince Milan and his advisers, in which case all the labour that we had expended in bringing the Porte to a wise decision would be thrown away, and the situation would become even more dangerous than before.

Count Beust promised to report what I had said to his Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 252.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 425 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 11, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade has reported by telegraph that the Servian Government has declared its readiness to accept an armistice for one month, or for a longer period, if the offer should be made in a regular form, adding that the Austrian and Russian Representatives have received instructions, but that no formal proposal can be made by the Agents of the Powers at Belgrade until they shall have been informed of the assent of the Porte.

I have pressed both upon Count Beust and Count Schouvaloff the importance of steps being taken by the Austrian and Russian Governments to induce Servia to accept the armistice; and it is my wish that your Excellency should lose no opportunity of urging this upon Count Andrassy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 253.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 642.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 11, 1876.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,† stating that I had strongly urged upon Count Beust the importance of inducing the Prince of Servia to accept, without delay or objection, the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months.

I have spoken in the same sense to Count Schouvaloff, and I have instructed by telegraph Her Majesty's Consul at Belgrade to use his best endeavours to secure this result.

I should wish your Excellency to speak in the same sense to Prince Bismarck, and to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the German Government will use every effort to induce the Servian Government to accept frankly and at once the proffered armistice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord A. Loftus, and Mr. Malet.

† No. 252.

No. 254.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 12.)

Le 27 Septembre, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR ma dépêche Circulaire du 19 Juillet, je vous ai communiqué la correspondence échangée entre mon Département et l'Agence des Principautés Unies à Constantinople au sujet de l'arrangement intervenu avec les Principautés, et en vertu duquel le Gouvernement Impérial s'était engagé à s'abstenir d'entretenir des navires de guerre dans la partie comprise entre Négotine et Vercierova, sous la condition expresse que les autorités Moldo-Valaques empêchernient, de leur côté, le passage et l'introduction en Serbie des munitions de guerre, de volontaires et tout acte contraire à la neutralité.

Cependant, la Sublime Porte a été à même de constater que cette condition essentielle n'est nullement observée, et que le transport de munitions de guerre et le passage de volontaires à destination de Belgrade par la partie précitée du Danube prend depuis quelque temps des proportions considérables. J'ai donc cru devoir adresser à l'Agence Princière à Constantinople la lettre dont vous trouverez ci-joint la copie pour votre propre information.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Ghika.

Le 14 Septembre, 1876.

L'ARRANGEMENT intervenu entre la Sublime Porte et les Principautés Unies a stipulé, comme vous le savez, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'abstiendrait d'entretenir des navires de guerre dans la partie du Danube qui sépare les Principautés Unies de la Serbie comprise entre Négotine et Vercierova, mais sous la condition expresse que les autorités Moldo-Valaques empêcheraient le passage et l'introduction en Serbie de munitions de guerre, de volontaires et tout acte contraire à la neutralité.

Le Gouvernement Impérial a le regret de constater que cette condition essentielle n'a été nullement observée, et qu'il résulte des rapports officiels et privés qui lui sont parvenus que la partie du Danube ainsi neutralisée sert journellement de passage non-seulement à des munitions de guerre mais encore à des individus isolés ou réunis en bande qui se rendent en Serbie dans l'intention avouée et notoire de porter les armes contre l'Empire Ottomane.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de l'Agence Princière, le Gouvernement Impérial espère que les autorités Princières prendront sans aucun retard les mesures les plus nergiques et les plus efficaces pour mettre fin à cet état de choses contraire à l'engagement susmentionné et qui a pris depuis quelque temps des proportions considérables. Il croit en même temps devoir ajouter que, si ces faits venaient à se renouveler, il se verrait obligé de placer deux canonnières dans cette partie du Danube pour exercer la surveillance que les autorités Princières seraient dès lors reconnues impuissantes à assurer.

No. 255.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 18. Political.)

Bucharest, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

M. JONESCO called upon me very early yesterday morning to inform me that he had just received a telegram from the Roumanian Agent at Vienna, to the effect that the letter conveyed by General Sumarokoff contained proposals that, in the event of the Porte not offering satisfactory guarantees, Bulgaria should be occupied by a Russian, and Bosnia and Herzegovina by an Austrian, force.

Under these circumstances the Minister urgently begged me to telegraph your Lordship, to express the desire that the position of Roumania should be regulated by the Guaranteeing Powers.

M. Jonesco read me a telegram which he had dispatched to their Agent at St. Petersburgh to lay the matter before the Russian Government, and requesting that the "delicacy" of their position should receive due consideration.

M. Jonesco stated that Roumania places herself entirely and unreservedly in the hands of the Guaranteeing Powers; that she had been called into existence by them, and that she depended upon them for the protection of her existence as a separate race, if not nationality, of her free institutions; that the Roumanian Government consider that this country has obligations to the Guaranteeing Powers, as well as to the Porte; and that they consider that the interests of both are best secured by her openly demanding the regulation of her position by the joint action of the Six Powers, rather than by intrigues at St. Petersburgh, or by obtaining half-hearted promises from Austria.

I told the Minister that I had no right to express any opinion on the subject in question on the part of your Lordship, but that one thing was quite certain, that a frank and open policy would always meet the hearty approval of her Majesty's Government.

I ventured to recommend a similar course with regard to St. Petersburgh; that they might have their misgivings, but that there was no real reason to suppose that the Russian Government was disposed to menace the existence of Roumania; and, moreover, that Russia is one of the Guaranteeing Powers. That from your Lordship's and Lord Beaconsfield's speeches on recent occasions, it might be gathered that Her Majesty's Government was, on the whole, satisfied with the attitude of Russia; that the latter might perhaps demand more exact conditions for the Christian provinces, but that it appeared to me that the present policy of Russia is to protect and develop the Christian populations in the East, and not to absorb them.

Since M. Jonesco's visit, I have seen many persons connected with the Government and others of weight in the country, and I quite gather that the general feeling entirely goes along with the Ministers, and, moreover, that their policy has the cordial support of Prince Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 256.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 469.)

St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 421 of the 13th ultimo I reported to your Lordship that the "Russki Mir," the organ of General Tchernaieff, had been suspended by a Ministerial order for three months. The penalty imposed on that journal has now been removed, and the suspension withdrawn.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith from the "Agence Russe" several telegrams published by the "Russki Mir" from the seat of war, and among them one signed by General Tchernaieff, in which he relates the inhuman treatment of the wounded and prisoners who had fallen into the hands of the Turkish troops.

It may be feared that if the atrocity recited by General Tchernaieff be allowed to pass unnoticed, and without the miscreants being made an example of for such horrible cruelty, reprisals will be resorted to of a nature repulsive to humanity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

TÉLÉGRAMMES Privés.—Le "Monde Russe," qui vient de reparaître, publie dans un numéro d'aujourd'hui les télégrammes suivants qui lui sont adressés directement du théâtre de la guerre. Celui qui suit, lui est envoyé par le Général Tchernaieff, et semble, dit-il, devoir être la copie d'un rapport adressé au Gouvernement Serbe par ce Général :—

"*Déligrade, le* [illegible], 1876.

"J'ai fait savoir le mois précédent que ceux de nos blessés ou prisonniers restés entre les mains de l'ennemi étaient soumis, avant d'être tués, aux plus cruelles tortures. Malgré cela, lorsque nos troupes, dans la journée du [illegible], occupèrent les positions dont elles avaient délogé la veille l'ennemi, elles trouvèrent nos blessés et nos prisonniers dans un état qu'aucun sentiment humain ne peut se représenter. Les malheureux étaient cloués

contre la terre, avec des clous en bois; ils avaient les jambes et d'autres parties de leurs corps carbonisés, les doigts des pieds coupés, la partie inférieure du bas ventre détachée par un couteau, leurs faces horriblement défigurées par les souffrances de l'agonie. La présence de cadavres de Nizams prouve que ces cruautés sont l'œuvre des troupes régulières. La vérité de ce qui précède est certifiée sur leur parole d'honneur d'officiers par le Colonel Dépréradovitch, le Capitaine Tikhanov et d'autres témoins oculaires. Je vous serais obligé de faire parvenir ces faits à la connaissance des Agents Diplomatiques à Belgrade. Nos troupes, jusqu'ici sans reproches, sont à tel point exaspérées par ces infamies que je ne réponds pas de pouvoir les empêcher à l'avenir d'agir par représailles.

"Le Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée de Timok-Morava,
(Signé) "TCHERNIAIEV.

"*Semlin, même date.*

"Depuis Samedi, il n'y a plus eu de rencontre. Le Comte Soumarokov a passé par ici se rendant de Vienne à Livadia. 6,000 manteaux d'hiver viennent d'arriver. Le Gouvernement a fait l'achat de 25,000 fusils."

"*Semlin, le* 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre *(au nouveau temps)*, 1876.

"Le Prince Milan a adressé une lettre à l'Empereur Alexandre, dans laquelle il donne l'explication de la Proclamation de la Principauté Royaume Serbe. Tchernaieff télégraphie au Prince que tout est tranquille à l'armée."

"*Semlin, le* [illegible], 1876.

"Tchernaieff télégraphie au Prince que 8,000 Turcs sont sortis de Viddine se dirigeant sur Nigotine (sur le Timok). On fortifie la ville, qui est défendue par le Colonel Zarakovitch à la tête de deux brigades de 6,000 Nigotinois qui, dès l'origine de la guerre, ont jurée de défendre leur ville jusqu'à la dernière extrémité. Novosélov part demain pour l'armée de l'Ibar. Les fortifications de Chabatz sont poussées avec vigueur. Cinquante soldats Prussiens et Bavarois avec cinq officiers sont arrivés à Belgrade. Ils se disent suivis de beaucoup d'autres Allemagnes qui formeront une légion Allemande."

No. 257.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 12, 1876.*

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"Further accounts received yesterday evening by Prince report that battle near Spuz day before yesterday was a brilliant Montenegrin success. Dervish Pasha's whole army was engaged, and repulsed, with very heavy loss, by numerically far inferior Montenegrin force, which lost some 30 killed and 50 wounded. Turks' apparent object was to reach Danilograd. They have re-entered Spuz. His Highness expressed great satisfaction and admiration of courage of his troops."

No. 258.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, 12·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

I HAVE asked the Porte to order cessation of hostilities while a formal armistice is being arranged, if similar orders are given by the Servian Government.

No. 259.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, 1·21 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 12, 1876, 12·10 P.M.*

INTELLIGENCE of duration of proposed armistice got known here by private telegram before receipt of mine from Sir H. Elliot. Matter was canvassed and first impression was unfavourable. I fear that chances of an acceptance are doubtful. The pretext will be the continuation of insecurity in neighbourhood of Turkish garrisons.

No. 260.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 12, 1876, 11·35 A.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will send immediately instructions to French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to accept the armistice.

No. 261.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 12, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs refuses to recommend Servia to accept the armistice of five months unless a better acquaintance with its terms alters his opinion of it, as he considers that it would be ruin to Servia and Montenegro, and that its proposal by the Porte aggravates the situation.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 639.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 547 of the 28th of May last, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest,* reporting his having been received at an audience by the Prince, to present his Letter of Credence, and adding that in consequence of an assurance which he had received from your Excellency that the Porte had recognized the right of the Principalities to assume the title of Roumania, he had substituted that title for for the "United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia," in the letter to the Prince, of which he was the bearer.

As I have received no similar information from your Excellency, I should be glad to hear from you how the matter now stands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 263.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 640.)
Sir. *Foreign Office, October 12, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to bring to the knowledge of the Porte Mr. Reade's despatch to your Excellency of the 20th ultimo, inclosing an account of the massacre which took place at Vratza in the month of May last.

Your Excellency will also instruct Mr. Baring to lay the matter before the Bulgarian Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 151.

No. 264.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 12, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs states that one of the conditions of the armistice is that Servia should receive no aid during the six months.

He requested me to say that should this be settled by the Guaranteeing Powers, Roumania would be disposed to act to prevent aid being sent under instructions from the Guaranteeing Powers.

Of course it is assumed that Russia act loyally in a similar sense.

No. 265.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 12, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 12, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE asked Baron Orczy yesterday whether Count Andrassy was not yet prepared to express an opinion respecting Conference, and as he professed not to know on what his Excellency was likely to decide, I said, as Her Majesty's Government must be expecting an answer to the communication I made to him on the 9th instant, I would call again to-day, when I hoped I might receive one either from Count Andrassy himself or through him.

Therefore, being too unwell to leave the house, I sent Mr. Edwardes to see Baron Orczy to-day, who said that Count Andrassy is expecting every hour to receive from Constantinople the conditions attached to the armistice, and an invitation from the Porte to urge it on the acceptance of the Servian Government; and that, as the conditions of the armistice may have some influence on the basis on which a Conference should meet, he thinks it best to await their arrival before expressing an opinion as to the expediency and objects of a Conference.

No. 266.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 21. Political.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copies of two despatches addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the 28th and 29th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs at Sulina, and the regulations respecting the carrying of arms in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 266.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to bring under your Excellency's notice a subject which you may deem worthy of consideration.

The maritime working population of Sulina, composed of Greeks, Turks, and Tartars, is comparatively very considerable in number, and consists of the very lowest classes.

During the present year several strikes have taken place amongst them, and which have led to very serious disturbances—serious from the very inadequate force at the disposal of the local authorities of Sulina.

One of these disturbances was so grave that Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" proceeded to the spot for the protection of British interests there.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

On another occasion one or two Ottoman gun-boats were dispatched to the assistance of the local authorities.

On the 28th ultimo, Vice-Consul Stokes reported to me the continuation of a very bad state of things, and now he has transmitted to me a petition he has received from the British merchants at Sulina, which he can fully endorse, and copy of which I have further the honour to inclose for your Excellency's consideration.

From what I have also heard from some of my colleagues here, I am of opinion that the matter merits consideration, as, if the authorities at Sulina be not furnished with more means for quelling any further disturbances that may arise than they possess at this moment, such an outbreak may take place (particularly during the ensuing winter, when there is so little work) as may be attended by serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 266.

British Merchants at Sulina to Vice-Consul Stokes.

Sir,

THE undersigned British merchants at this town and port have the honour to bring under your notice the following facts:—

The bulk of the working population of Sulina, as you are aware, is composed of Greeks, Turks, and Tartars of the lowest class, and during the present year numerous strikes have been made by one or other of them, as well as by all of these classes, which have led to serious disorders and fighting amongst them, to the no small detriment of commerce, as well as to the alarm of the peaceably disposed inhabitants. One of these fights having taken place beneath the windows of your Vice-Consulate, you will, by your own personal observation, have been able to perceive that it was quite serious enough to cause anxiety on the part of the peaceable residents of the place.

The Turkish working population has been quite recently recruited by some 300 individuals, far more of the appearance of Bashi-Bazouks than of peaceable workpeople; and since their arrival disturbances have been more frequent than before. It is also stated and generally believed that they, as well as the workmen of other nationalities, are armed.

Under the present circumstances of excitement caused by the war between Turkey and her vassal States, you must be aware that with a mixed population such as ours very little provocation on either side might lead to very serious results; and you yourself saw that a most serious conflict arose but recently from a simple scuffle between two little boys, the one a Greek or Russian, and the other a Turk, and that under the very nose of the authorities, who at the time had nothing like an adequate force to quell it; and had not one side of the rioters taken refuge on board a Turkish transport ship (and even then were well stoned from the shore by the opposing faction) numerous deaths must inevitably have been the consequence.

The whole force at that time here under the orders of the Governor consisted of less than a dozen policemen, but since that some sixty or seventy soldiers have arrived. How long this force may remain there is no knowing, or in case of any serious disturbance whether they would make common cause with the disturbers of the peace, or attempt to restore order, is especially problematical.

Under these circumstances, the undersigned respectfully request that you will be good enough to state these facts to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, praying that a British gunboat may be permanently stationed at Sulina, until such time as all apprehensions of disorder or danger shall be over.

The undersigned may especially mention the necessity of this precaution during the ensuing winter, as during that season idleness and drinking on the part of the lower orders are even far more likely to lead to mischief than disagreements about work, where pretty well all can find employment.

In case also of any riots, plunder or massacre occurring it must also be remembered that the quiet portion of the inhabitants would be entirely at the mercy of the rioters, flight would be impossible, as they have the ice-bound Danube on the one side, the Black Sea on the other, and frozen marshes all round, while for the same reasons no assistance could be sent from outside, even should it luckily happen (contrary to the general rule at Sulina in the winter season) that the telegraph were in working order, at the time it might be wanted.

According to Treaty the British Government can have two small vessels of war

stationed at Sulina or in the Danube; and since 1856 there has always been at least one in the river for some eight or nine months in the year. This has, however, generally been stationed during the greater part of that period at Galatz. Now, however, that matters are assuming anything but a pleasant aspect, and comparatively little necessity existing for the presence of a vessel of war up river, we the Undersigned would respectfully ask you to take such steps as you may deem necessary for a vessel to be permanently stationed at this port, as well as through the ensuing winter for the reasons above stated.

We have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. JACKSON.
ARCHIBALD HADDEN.
WM. EAGLE.
WM. WRIGHT.
ROBERT B. WRIGHT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 266.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September* 29, 1876.

CERTAIN regulations of the Porte respecting the carrying of arms in the country districts have been promulgated here, and have increased the feeling of alarm amongst the Christians of the vilayet.

It appears that every person carrying arms about him is bound to exhibit his "teskéré" or Government permit, in the absence of which he is to be seized and brought before the authorities, and if he resists he is to be shot on the spot.

It is well known that no Christian dares ask a Mussulman for his teskéré, much less shoot him for not exhibiting it, consequently they (the Christians) say that the result of these regulations will be to enable the Mussulmans to carry their arms whilst they will be unable to do so.

From the state of feeling amongst the Mussulmans and Christians here, I really believe that there is something in what the latter say, and if the authorities are not strictly compelled to rigorously enforce these regulations as regards the Mussulmans, it will only add to the unsatisfactory state of things that already exists in this vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 267.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 346. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 3, 1876.

I SPOKE to Signor Melegari to-day on the subject of Montenegro's claims in case of a peaceful solution of the Eastern difficulties, with a view to learn the grounds upon which his Excellency objects to the cession of a port to the Principality, a proposal which is generally put forward when its wants and rights are discussed.

Signor Melegari said that he should be willing to see the territory of the Principality rounded, though he supposed there would be some difficulty in inducing the Porte to give up Podgoritza, but that he could not support the project to obtain for it territory communicating with the sea.

He said that there was no port on that bit of coast which could be of much use unless improved at an expense which a great and wealthy country could alone incur, and that it behoved us to consider whether, while such a port would be in name Montenegrin, it would not also for all purposes and at all times be the available harbour of another Power.

He pointed out on the map that it would be the door of the Turkish provinces adjacent to Montenegro, and he observed that at present this door was walled up, but that once free it could be used for objects which might be a constant source of embarrassment to Turkey, and, he said, that with regard to the commercial requirements of the Principality he considered that the Lake of Scutari and the River Bozana furnished sufficient outlet. On the other hand, he said, that if after due consideration the other

Powers were united in their desire to obtain such a cession, Italy could not take up a position of absolute opposition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 268.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 347. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 5, 1876.

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that the Russian Ambassador had communicated to him a proposal on the part of Russia that an armistice of six weeks should now be demanded of the Porte with a view to give time to the Powers to concert as to the means of arranging the questions at present pending. He had also suggested that in case the armistice were refused, diplomatic relations with Turkey should be broken off.

His Excellency said that as yet he had made no reply to the proposal, as no Council had met since he had received it, but that in any case he should have returned a temporising answer in order to allow him time to become acquainted with the replies of the other Powers, and especially of England. He reverted to his frequently expressed desire that England should continue to take the lead, and he declared the readiness of Italy to follow her "pour tout et par tout."

Under these circumstances he requested me to ascertain, if possible, the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and I have accordingly addressed a telegram to your Lordship on the subject this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 269.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 362.)

My Lord, *Rome, October* 9, 1876.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegraphic despatch, dated the 5th instant, I informed Signor Melegari that Her Majesty's Government, after having considered a communication made to them by the Russian Ambassador, had decided to give their support to the proposal for an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the terms proposed as a basis of peace.

I also informed His Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have been unable to concur in measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus, which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

Signor Melegari told me that he had learnt with much satisfaction that Austro-Hungary had likewise refused to co-operate in the proposed intervention in the Turkish Provinces, for the presence of an Austrian occupying force in Bosnia would be a serious embarrassment to Italy, and would arouse questions which are happily at present dormant.

His Excellency most earnestly deprecates an attempt at the settlement of the Eastern question at present, using the word settlement to mean the disruption of Turkey in Europe, and he believes that the proposed occupation would, without fail, ultimately lead to such a result.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 270.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 363.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 9, 1876.*

SIGNOR MELEGARI read to me to-day a despatch which he had received from Signor Corti, the Italian Minister at Constantinople, stating that Sir Henry Elliot was to press the Porte, in case she formally refused the English propositions of peace, to grant an armistice, and that he was to state that, if this were refused, he should leave Constantinople; he was to add that an armistice was to be followed by a Conference.

Signor Melegari went on to remind me of the Russian suggestion, of which he had informed me on Thursday last that, in the event of an armistice being refused, diplomatic relations should be broken off, and he said that the Russian Ambassador, knowing that Count Corti's instructions were to support Sir Henry Elliot and to follow his example, had inquired whether the threat to leave Constantinople was intended merely as a threat, or whether it was a fixed policy in case the armistice was refused. Signor Melegari had replied that no one could make such a threat without intending to carry it out; that we were not playing with children whom we could frighten with a ghost, and that certainly the threat was a serious one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 271.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 364.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 9, 1876.*

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that the Russian Ambassador had called upon him this morning, and had informed him, by order of his Government, that the question now arose as to whether, in the event of the Porte consenting to an armistice, she should be allowed to have a Representative in the Conference which was to follow, and the Ambassador announced that the Russian Government objected to the presence of a Turkish Representative.

Signor Melegari had said that he could give no reply at present to the communication made by the Russian Ambassador; that he could not resist expressing surprise at it, but that he requested the Ambassador not to do more than say that it should be taken into consideration. To me, Signor Melegari would say that he thought the pretension to exclude the Turkish Representative was not founded upon justice, and that it was contrary to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. He deemed, moreover, that at this moment it was a most unfortunate move.

Sir Henry Elliot was pressing for an armistice on the understanding that a Conference was immediately to follow. Supposing that, on this understanding, the Porte gave way, was she subsequently to be told that the Conference was indeed to take place, but that she was not to be admitted to it? Would not the knowledge that such a proposal had been made by Russia at this moment preclude the hope that the Porte would yield to the armistice?

The last news which he had from Constantinople stated that there was now a greater chance of the Porte's giving way. It would be most deplorable if this new complication should, as appeared likely, augment the desperation of the Porte and the disunion of the Powers. He was not prepared for the step on the part of Russia, as she had previously accepted the idea of a Conference, with the provision that it would consist of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, but at that time she had not stated her desire that the Porte should be excluded from its deliberations.

With regard to the Conference as it is now proposed, Signor Melegari seems to think that Sir Henry Elliot's instructions are that it should be held at Constantinople, which his Excellency thinks, for many reasons, is a most undesirable seat for it, but on this point, as on many others, he states that he has been willing to waive his own objections for the sake of agreement with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 272.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 365.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs in consequence of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 479 of the 5th instant, which I received this morning, and which directs me to acquaint the Italian Government with the substance of the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian Government regarding the imposition of an armistice upon the Porte, the occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Mr. Malet to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, October 10, 1876.*

IN compliance with instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government has informed the Government of the Emperor of Russia, in reply to a proposal on the part of that Government to impose upon the Porte an armistice or truce of six weeks, that they will support at Constantinople the proposal for the conclusion of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the definitive rejection by the Porte of the terms of peace which had been proposed by Her Majesty's Government and had been supported by the other Powers; but that they cannot concur in the previous suggestion of Prince Gortchakow as to the occupation of Bulgaria and Bosnia and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I am also instructed to state to your Excellency that Sir H. Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has been directed to intimate to the Porte that if the terms of peace shall be rejected, and the armistice accepted, it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that a Conference should immediately assemble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. MALET.

No. 273.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 241.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 239 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a meeting which was largely attended by all classes of the population of Athens, was held at the "Pynx" yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was presided over by the Rector of the University; the Metropolitan and many dignitaries of the Greek Church, the members of the Municipal bodies of Athens and of the Piræus, and many members of the Chamber of Deputies were present.

Messrs. Paparigopoulos, Kokinos and Damalas, Professors at the University, addressed the meeting.

The speech of M. Paparigopoulos, which is, I think, the speech most worthy of notice, called the attention of the Assembly to the injustice done by the Great Powers of Europe to the inhabitants of the Provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus, and of Crete, in not advocating for them the same privileges and concessions as they had advocated for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, and set forth that, if such was the reward for insurrection, the Greeks should adopt the same course as that adopted by the inhabitants of those provinces.

Allusion was made to the sufferings of the Greeks at the hands of the Turks during the War of Independence, which sufferings the Greeks of to-day, I may mention, appear to consider to be a claim for further consideration at the hands of the Great Powers.

M. Paparigopoulos said that he did not urge that the Turk should be ejected from Europe, but he demanded equal rights for Christians as for Turks, giving some interesting

statistics as to the unequal degree in which taxation is borne by the members of the Christian and Mahommedan creeds.

At the close of the meeting the following resolutions were proposed and adopted:

"1. The meeting to protest against the injustice so unexpectedly done to our brethren.

"2. To declare that the Hellenic nation, being courageous and possessing sentiments of honour, cannot remain indifferent to the unheard of injustice and contempt of our brethren in Turkey."

Professor Damulis read also the following resolution:

"The principal members of the meeting to wait upon the Government and request it:—

"1st. To address proper representations to the Great Powers respecting the injustice offered to our brethren in Turkey.

"2nd. To resume with all due energy the necessary measures for the organization of the naval and land forces of the country and of the nation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 274.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 242. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 2, 1876.*

MONDAY being the day upon which M. Contostavlos usually receives the members of the Diplomatic Body, I called upon him, and our conversation turned upon the meeting which took place yesterday upon the "Pynx."

M. Contostavlos began by explaining to me that there was nothing factious in the character of the meeting; that its having been promoted entirely by the members of the University, who took no part in politics, was a proof of its having been prompted purely by motives foreign to party politics.

I have, however, reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement, having been informed upon very good authority that the meeting was held at the instigation of the Government; that they had at first thought of suggesting a demonstration in front of the President of the Council's house, but that this course was deemed unadvisable, and that a meeting was, therefore, decided upon; that the Government had selected the persons who spoke at the meeting; and that they suggested the language which the orators held.

I did not in speaking to M. Contostavlos hint to him that I had heard this report, but I asked him whether public opinion was much excited, and he replied that Greece was exceedingly hurt at no notice having been taken by the Great Powers of the Hellenic race in Turkey; that he could not say to what the present agitation might lead; that the question of making military preparations had been mooted; and that England, upon whom Greece had always counted for support, having changed her policy, she was forced to throw herself into the arms of Russia, who was now allowed to do as she pleased in the East. He went on to say that Greece had met with but little encouragement from England, mentioning the question of the Greek Church as an example; and he further complained that she had received but little assistance in remonstrating against the Circassian colonization of the Hellenic Provinces of Turkey, adverting again especially to the Province of Macedonia.

I reminded M. Contostavlos that I had informed him by your Lordship's orders that you had directed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to speak seriously to the Porte upon the subject; and that, moreover, the Circassian colonists lately complained of had arrived at Volo in Thessaly, and not in Macedonia.

I then inquired of M. Contostavlos what he understood by organizing the military forces of the country (τῆς χώρας) and of the nation (τοῦ ἔθνους), as mentioned in my immediately preceding despatch. He said he supposed the latter words referred to the whole Hellenic race.

It would, therefore, appear that measures will be taken on the part of Greece to promote a rising amongst the Greeks in Turkey.

The German Chargé d'Affaires saw M. Contostavlos later in the day, and he has told me that he seemed particularly irritated against England, and that he had hinted that certain promises had been made to Greece which had not been fulfilled. I told M. de Hirschfeld that I had certainly made no promises to the Greek Government on behalf of

that of Her Majesty, and that, as far as I knew, no promises had been made; that I was aware that the Greek Government was exceedingly desirous of obtaining more territory, but that we could not promise that which it was not in our power to give.

I venture, in conclusion, my Lord, to make the following observations:—The Greek Government has indulged in the hope, and perhaps has even led the people of Greece to share in that hope, that if they remained neutral they would obtain some substantial reward. They have further counted upon a disagreement in the Eastern Question between Great Britain and Russia; they have thought that in the event of that disagreement becoming serious, the cause of the Greeks must necessarily be taken up by Her Majesty's Government as a counterpoise to the Slavs, but now they see by the late expression of public opinion in England that the English people are renouncing their traditional policy of opposing Russia; that they are advocating certain measures exclusively to the advantage of the Slavs, which will give them great influence and so extinguish all hope of the Greek race ever obtaining the position due to it.

The vanity of the Greeks has been wounded; they see little chance of their ambitious views being gratified by remaining quiet, and they think that under the circumstances they are more likely to obtain the recognition of what they consider to be their claims and those of their race by adopting a different policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 275.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 3, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a telegram said to have been received from Copenhagen, stating that the King of Greece had put off his return to Athens pending the making over to Greece for a sum of money of the Island of Crete and the rectification of the frontier, was published here the day before yesterday, and attracted a good deal of attention.

I questioned the Hellenic Minister for Foreign affairs yesterday upon the subject, and he informed me that it was without foundation.

I then suggested to him the propriety of the Government causing such a report to be officially denied. The French Minister had already made a similar suggestion.

It is stated to-day in the newspapers that the Government has referred to Copenhagen for information on the subject, and an evening paper confirms the Minister's statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 276.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 245.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 230 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I heard yesterday from Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, that young men are being drilled in that town, and that he thinks it probable that the young men in other parts of the Peloponnesus are also being drilled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 277.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 4, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 217 of the 31st of August last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the session of the Chamber of Deputies commenced on the 2nd instant.

I have also the honour to report that on the same day the trial of M. Bulgaris and of the Ministers who belonged to his Government was resumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 278.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a translation by Mr. Lambros, to which I beg to call your attention, of the reply made by M. Commoundouros, the President of the Council, to the deputation charged with laying before the Government the resolutions passed at the meeting held at Athens on the 1st instant, an account of which I have given to your Lordship in my despatch No. 241 of the 2nd instant.

The language held by M. Commoundouros appears prudent, and not calculated to excite unduly the public mind in Greece. He says that he agrees in the opinion expressed at the meeting that steps must be taken for the organisation of the military and naval forces of the country, and that measures for the furtherance of that object will be shortly submitted to the Chamber. He states that the policy hitherto pursued by the Government has been in accordance with public opinion, that it has been a prudent policy, and that in politics prudence must predominate; but the internal order and security of Greece being connected with the state of the neighbouring provinces the Government cannot maintain an indifferent attitude; and he concludes by expressing the conviction that the prudence and wisdom of the Turkish Government and the humanity of Europe will never allow the Christian populations of Turkey to believe that the gates of justice and of humanity cannot be opened must be forced.

A meeting was held on the evening of the 2nd instant at the Piræus, with the same object as that held on the 1st instant at Athens; and Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, informs me, in a letter dated the 2nd instant, "that he considers the public mind in Greece to be in a very unsettled state, for if nothing is done for Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete by the Great Powers, the Greeks are quite capable of some warlike movement against Turkey, especially if the war with Servia and Montenegro is prolonged."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Extract from the "Ethnikon Pneuma" of October 3, 1876 (n.s.)

(Translation.)

Reply of M. Commoundouros to the Delegates of the Meeting at the "Pnyx."

Gentlemen,

WITH great pleasure and due attention I have listened to the wishes of the population of Athens. Likewise animated by this same idea of national preparation, when called to the head of affairs our most serious attention was given to the subject, but, owing to limited means and authority, we were unable to remedy more than a few of the most essential wants.

However, provisions for the development of our naval and land forces, on a footing consistent with the necessities of all possible requirements, are objects which I likewise share with you.

In view of this object the entire nation must take up the struggle and subject itself to serious sacrifices.

Having considered this question we have prepared, and will lay before the Chamber as soon as a House is formed, measures which I hope will be considered as meeting the said requirements.

Much advice and exhortation has already been heard upon the subject, but to prepare national forces effective sacrifices are required, which we must cheerfully undertake, and inscribe at the same time this measure, as an indispensable condition of an immovable policy upon the national flag, if we desire to maintain the dignity of the Hellenic name and our position in the world, and to fulfil our destiny.

Greece, an independent nation, forming part of the European family, had strong reasons not to oppose herself to the policy openly professed by the public opinion and the Governments of Europe. In this Greece followed a policy of prudence, and not of sentiment; but let us not forget, because we are the result of common struggles and sacrifices, the ties of blood, of sacred oaths, which exercised an influence over all our past Eastern policy, and we must not neglect that prudence must predominate in politics.

Sentiment, however, has always its influence, especially when the causes are so great. Besides, the internal security, order, and financial condition of Greece are, as has often been proved, connected with the state of the neighbouring Provinces. In such a case the question in a certain sense becomes an internal one, therefore the Government could not have remained indifferent.

Since the Greeks in Turkey have repeatedly supported their claims by rivers of blood, I think I make no mistake in believing that should the question be again brought up by the Christian races for re-examination, with a view of avoiding fresh catastrophes and sacrifices, they have acted thus in the conviction that neither their unquestionable rights have been effaced, nor that their sufferings have been forgotten.

This has been certified by the Turkish Government declaring the necessity of reform and amendment.

This conduct has saved Turkey from serious complications, and has facilitated the work of Europe. For this reason I am convinced that the prudence and wisdom of the Turkish Government and the humanity of Europe will never allow those populations to believe that the gates of justice and of humanity are not to be opened, but forced; the consolidation of such a conviction would have as result serious changes and great dangers.

No. 279.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 860.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 12, 1876.*

IN pursuance of the instruction which I received by telegraph from your Lordship last night, I went this morning to the Duc Decazes, and represented to him the importance of taking measures to induce the Servians to agree to the armistice.

The Duke authorized me to inform your Lordship that he would send immediately instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to do so without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 280.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 861. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 12, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes recited to me this morning the contents of a telegram, dated, I think, yesterday, which he had received from the French Agent at Belgrade.

It stated that the English and Russian Agents there had agreed to recommend Prince Milan to accept the armistice as soon as they should receive official intelligence of its having been accepted by the Porte. He added that the Austrian Agent had expressed his readiness to unite with his two colleagues, but that the German and Italian Representatives were without instructions.

The French Agent went on in the telegram to say that he himself had determined to act with his English, Russian, and Austrian colleagues, and had suggested that they should make a preliminary representation to the Servian Government at once; and he observed that this would have the double advantage of pledging the Russian Agent to support the armistice and of paving the way for the favourable reception of the formal proposal.

The Duc Decazes expressed his approval of this suggestion of the French Agent, and proceeded to ask me if I knew what were the conditions which the Porte annexed to its own acceptance of the armistice.

I answered that I had of course seen the numerous statements made in the newspapers with regard to conditions alleged to have been laid down by the Porte, but that none of the official information I had received in any degree confirmed these statements.

The Duke replied that the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, had reported by telegraph that at the end of the Grand Council held the day before yesterday at that place Safvet Pasha had informed the dragomans of the Embassies that on the motion of the Ministers the Council had consented to an armistice to last till the middle of March, and that the conditions which the Porte attached to its consent would be communicated to the Ambassadors on the following day.

The Duke had, he said, received no further report from M. de Bourgoing. He hoped that the conditions merely related to the military arrangements for carrying the armistice into effect, but he could not help feeling some anxiety.

It would, he observed, be a great blunder, on the part of the Turks, to lose the opportunity of making an armistice without conditions, and thus virtually put an end to the war, without committing themselves to any specific terms of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 281.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 862.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 12, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me at some length this morning, on the subject of the proposed Conference on the Eastern question.

The Austrian Government had, he observed, put forward four points for preliminary consideration: first, whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference; second, where the Conference is to be held; third, whether or not it is to be composed of the foreign Ministers of the respective countries; fourth, what is to be the programme of it.

The first point appeared to the Duke to present the greatest difficulty.

It would, he said, be hardly compatible with the spirit, or even with the letter, of the Treaty of Paris, for the Powers to hold a Conference on the internal affairs of Turkey without the participation of the Porte.

In reply to this objection to the exclusion of the Porte, Prince Gortchakow had, the Duke told me, referred him to a Protocol stated to have been signed in 1861, and to lay down the principle that the Powers were entitled to confer among themselves on Turkish matters. The Duke had searched in vain for this Protocol in the French Archives. The nearest approach to it which he had discovered appeared in the Preamble of a Protocol on the affairs of the Lebanon, signed in 1860.

Prince Gortchakow had, however, declared that it was not to this Protocol of 1860 he referred, and that he would get the exact date and text of the Protocol of 1861 from St. Petersburgh, and communicate it to the French Government.

The Duke went on to say that perhaps the best way of turning the difficulty would be to divide the proceedings into two parts. Meetings might be held in the first instance by the representatives of the guaranteeing Powers.

The Powers having thus come to an agreement among themselves as to the proposals to be made to the Porte, a regular Conference, in which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should take part, might be held, in order to give effect to those proposals.

The Duke proceeded to enter into a theoretical kind of discussion on the form in which the preliminary meetings should be held, and on the name which should be given to them. In regular course a Congress, he said, ended in a Treaty, and a Conference in a Protocol. With a view to sparing the self-love of the Turks, it might be desirable to avoid the use of either of these denominations. On the other hand, it seemed essential that some document of binding force should be signed to establish the agreement to which the Powers might come among themselves.

The new form of administration in the Lebanon had been settled by a European Commission. It had been hinted to the Duke from Constantinople, though not by the Turkish Ministers, that the Porte would not object to the appointment of a European Commission to watch over the execution of the new great reform which the Porte proposed to extend to the whole Empire. Perhaps such a Commission might now be formed to settle the conditions of peace and the administrative reforms to be pressed by the Powers on the Porte.

On the other hand, the Duke had reason to think that negotiations with Russia would

be very much facilitated if satisfaction were given to the desire of that Power that a formal Conference, even though only of a preliminary character, should be held without the participation of the Porte.

As to the second point in the Austrian inquiries, the Duke conceived that, in most respects, Constantinople appeared to be the best place for the Conference. There were, however, two objections. It might be regarded by the Turks as peculiarly offensive to exclude them from a Conference held at the seat of their own Government, or not to follow the usual rule and assign the Presidency of the Congress to the Plenipotentiary of the Power in whose capital it was held.

As regarded the third point, the Duc Decazes observed that of course it was out of the question that the several Ministers for Foreign Affairs should go to Constantinople, and that there were Parliamentary and other considerations which would put it out of the power of some of them to leave their own respective countries at all for any length of time. He thought, therefore, that if the Conference were held, it must be composed of diplomatic Plenipotentiaries in the usual way.

As to the last point, the settling beforehand the programme of the Conference, the Duc Decazes did not foresee any great difficulty.

The basis of it would, he presumed, be the proposals which had been drawn up by Her Majesty's Government, and which had been adopted by the five other Powers, and recommended to the Porte.

I told the Duc Decazes that the Austrian inquiries had been submitted to your Lordship by the Comte de Beust.

I said that you had reserved your opinion on the question whether or not the Porte should be represented at the Conference, and had said to M. de Beust that it would be necessary to ascertain the views of the other Powers.

Your Lordship had also, I said, reserved a final expression of opinion as to the seat of the Conference, but had observed that, personally, you were inclined to think that Constantinople would be the most convenient place.

As regarded the third point, your Lordship had stated that the personal attendance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs at a Conference of which the sitting might last some time would be inadvisable.

Finally, I told the Duc Decazes that, with regard to the last point, your Lordship had said to M. de Beust that you considered that a Conference without a basis would not be likely to lead to good results, and that you thought that a programme ought to be agreed upon beforehand, but that the terms of such a programme would require to be framed with care.

In answer to an observation made by the Duc Decazes, I said that your Lordship had had a conversation the day before yesterday with the Comte de Schouvaloff, who had stated to you reasons against the admission of the Porte to the proposed Conference; and that your Lordship had reserved your opinion and had merely said that the views expressed by his Excellency should have the fullest consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 282.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 12 Octobre, 1876.*

VOICI les institutions dont Sa Majesté le Sultan vient de doter l'Empire:

Une Assemblée Générale, composée de membres élus par les habitants des villages et de la capitale, sera convoquée à Constantinople. Cette Assemblée, dont la session annuelle sera de trois mois, aura pour mandat de voter les impôts et les budgets de l'Empire.

Une autre Assemblée, dont les membres seront nommés par l'Etat, sera investie, dans les limites restreintes et bien définies, des attributions d'un Sénat. Une Commission instituée à la Sublime Porte sous la présidence de Son Altesse Midhat Pacha, et composée de hauts fonctionnaires Musulmans et Chrétiens, élabore en ce moment la loi concernant les détails relatifs à la constitution de ces deux grands corps d'Etat.

Une autre loi, relative à la réorganisation de l'Administration des Provinces, assurera l'exécution de tout ce qui se trouve actuellement dans la loi des vilayets, en étendant dans une large mesure le droit d'élection, et comprendra, en même temps, les réformes

pratiques qu'on a voulu voir introduites dans les provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Les Conseils Généraux des provinces auront le droit de veiller à l'exécution des lois et des règlements; et, pour ne pas laisser le pouvoir exécutif sans contrôle dans l'intervalle des différentes sessions, cette tâche sera dévolue aux Conseils d'Administration, qui tirent également leur origine de l'élection populaire; ils auront à expédier les affaires qui rentrent dans les attributions de Conseils Généraux, et à surveiller les agents de l'administration locale, de manière à ce qu'ils ne s'écartent pas des dispositions des lois et des règlements, et ne se laissent point entraîner à des actes arbitraires.

En outre, il été décidé d'améliorer le mode d'assiette et de perception des impôts partout dans l'Empire, d'imprimer aux cercles municipaux tout le développement qu'ils comportent, de leur affecter une partie des revenus publics, de réorganiser la police, en un mot de faire passer dans le domaine des faits et de la vérité tous les progrès que peut procurer une organisation provinciale aussi complète que possible.

Ces différentes institutions répondent pleinement aux vœux exprimés par les Puissances, et donnent partout satisfaction aux besoins généralement sentis d'une amélioration radicale et offrent aussi des garanties de bonne administration.

Détails par courrier.

No. 283.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Octobre*, 1876.

LA Sublime Porte vient de consentir à un armistice de six mois expirant fin Mars. Voici la note que j'ai adressée aujourd'hui à ce sujet aux Représentants des Puissances médiatrices à Constantinople:—

"La Sublime Porte a pris en sérieuse considération la proposition des Puissances médiatrices touchant la conclusion d'un armistice régulier ayant pour but d'amener la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro. Dans sa communication du Septembre la Sublime Porte avait fait connaître aux Gouvernements amis les raisons qui ont, en égard aux termes auxquels la question de la paix elle-même était ramenée, rendu superflue la conclusion d'un armistice en règle. Prenant acte aujourd'hui de la proposition des Puissances pour le rétablissement de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro sur la base du *statu quo ante*, et tout en se déclarant toujours prêt à accepter la décision des Puissances au sujet des conditions proposées par lui dans sa susdite communication, le Gouvernement Impérial n'hésite pas à donner son consentement à la conclusion d'un armistice régulier. Il est toutefois aisé de reconnaître que, vu l'approche de la mauvaise saison, il y a lieu de prolonger la durée de l'armistice bien au-delà du minimum demandé par les Puissances. Aussi la Sublime Porte croit-elle qu'elle doit comprendre une durée de six mois, commencée le 1er Octobre, finissant 31 Mars v.s.

"Il dépend maintenant des dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances médiatrices de hâter la suspension des hostilités en désignant le plus tôt possible leurs Délégués pour régler l'armistice sur les lieux.

"La Sublime Porte donnera immédiatement de son côté les instructions nécessaires aux commandants des troupes Impériales, et les délégués des Puissances auront à s'entendre avec eux ainsi qu'avec les chefs militaires des deux Principautés sur les détails pratiques, en tenant compte des exigences soulevées et de la nécessité de ne point laisser réoccuper par les Serbes les points qui sont actuellement en la possession des armées Ottomanes. Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments de haute equité des Puissances médiatrices, la Sublime Porte aime à croire en outre qu'elles voudront bien prendre des mesures efficaces et immédiates pour empêcher dans ce cas l'introduction d'armes et de munitions de guerre dans les Principautés et mettre définitivement un terme à l'affluence des volontaires qui viennent du dehors pour prendre une part active à la lutte. Il y a là un fait anormal qui alarme l'opinion publique en même temps qu'il cause au Gouvernement Impérial les plus graves difficultés. Sa continuation amènerait infailliblement des complications sérieuses et rendrait inutile les efforts pacifiques que l'on a en vue de seconder. Le Gouvernement Impérial est en même temps persuadé que les Puissances médiatrices, en faisant comprendre aux deux Principautés la nécessité de respecter religieusement dans l'avenir les obligations imposées par l'armistice, sauront les détourner de toute tentative qui aurait pour effet d'encourager directement ou indirectement les

mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes, et de fournir des secours aux insurgés. En précisant ainsi sa pensée la Sublime Porte espère avoir donné aux Puissances médiatrices une preuve de plus de son désir d'entourer l'armistice qu'elle vient d'accepter de toutes les garanties qui sont indispensables pour la réalisation des intentions amicales qui en ont déterminée la concession. Elle conserve l'assurance que, s'inspirant toujours des mêmes sentiments de sollicitude pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur, à la dignité et à l'indépendance de l'Empire, les Puissances sauront mettre de côté tout ce qui pourra soulever des obstacles à l'œuvre si désirée de la pacification définitive."

No. 284.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 13.)

(Particulière et très-pressée.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Octobre*, 1876.

DANS un télégramme dont Sir Henry Elliot a donné communication à la Sublime Porte, Lord Derby pose au Gouvernement Impérial l'alternative d'accepter les conditions proposées ou de conclure un armistice en règle. L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique nous a fait pressentir à cette occasion la probabilité de la réunion d'une Conférence, dans le cas où nous nous refuserions à une suspension d'armes.

Ainsi qu'il résulte de la note que j'ai remise hier soir aux Représentants des Six Puissances, la Sublime Porte se déclare prête à accepter un armistice de six mois du 1er Octobre au 31 Mars, vieux style, et s'en remet aux Délégués des Puissances du soin d'en régler les conditions, conformément aux exigences stratégiques de la situation, et de manière à satisfaire à la nécessité d'empêcher dans l'avenir les envois d'armes, aussi bien que le passage des volontaires, et de faire respecter par les deux Principautés les obligations découlant de l'armistice. Je ne doute pas que, sur ces derniers points, les Puissances ne tombent d'accord aisément, et qu'elles ne se montrent animées d'une sollicitude égale pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur et aux droits de la Sublime Porte.

J'appelle maintenant l'attention de votre Excellence sur la question de la Conférence. La réunion projetée, si elle avait lieu, causerait tout au moins le danger de certains entraînements dont nous sommes en droit de nous préoccuper. Quand même nous entrerions dans cet aréopage Européen avec un programme arrêté de réformes, il pourrait surgir, dans le cours des pourparlers, des faits et des incidents qui, en amenant les parties à dépasser les limites tracées d'un commun accord, obligeraient la Sublime Porte de rappeler son Plénipotentiaire, ce qui nous exposerait à mécontenter la majorité qui aurait adopté les idées et les propositions rejetées ou combattues par nous. D'ailleurs, d'après la tournure que les choses ont prise, la réunion d'une Conférence ne serait en réalité d'aucune utilité.

En effet, l'échange de vues que les Puissances se proposeraient de faire par rapport à la question de paix devra être parfaitement atteint sans qu'on eût recours à une pareille mesure. Les six mois d'armistice, en amenant nécessairement une détente dans la situation, en permettant aux esprits de se calmer dans l'intervalle, laisseraient amplement aux Puissances le temps de s'expliquer, de se renseigner mutuellement, sans que la réunion d'une Conférence vînt fournir un nouvel aliment aux passions et aux ardeurs impatientes. Pendant ce temps, l'œuvre de la réforme intérieure ferait son chemin. L'Europe aurait l'occasion de s'édifier sur le caractère sérieux et pratique des promesses du Gouvernement Impérial. Nous aurions, nos amis auraient avec nous, des faits à opposer à nos détracteurs. Ce sont là des avantages incontestables, des éléments d'une valeur évidente pour la pacification matérielle et morale de l'Orient. Indépendamment de toutes les fins de non-recevoir, de toutes les résistances que nous aurions à opposer à tout projet tendant à nous faire dévier de cette voie, il me semble que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique sera le premier à s'apercevoir qu'il ne serait guère dans l'intérêt général de prendre immédiatement à ce sujet une décision qui enlèverait du coup à la situation tout ce qu'elle présente de favorable à un arrangement satisfaisant pour toutes les parties engagées.

Je serais très-heureux de voir ces réflexions soumises à l'appréciation éclairée de Lord Derby avec toute la force de conviction et toute la connaissance des faits qui caractérisent votre Excellence. J'espère que sa Seigneurie sera d'accord avec nous pour empêcher que la question qui commence à peine à s'éclaircir, grâce à tant de sacrifices et d'efforts, ne soit engagée dans une voie pleine de nouvelles difficultés, de nouveaux périls.

No. 285.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

Therapia, October 12, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires, although speaking as he said without instructions, has expressed himself against a long armistice.

He was reminded that a short time ago his Government had asked for one of three months, upon which he answered that circumstances had changed in the meantime, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with present proposal.

No. 286.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 13.)

Therapia, October 12, 1876, 11·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BY an official note Porte declares that, accepting the proposal of the Powers to re-establish peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante bellum*, and being ready to accept the decision of the Powers upon the conditions proposed by it, it does not hesitate to agree to conclusion of a regular armistice. The Porte considers that it should be for six months from the beginning of October, and that it will depend on the mediating Powers to accelerate the suspension of hostilities by appointing as soon as possible their delegates to arrange the armistice on the spot.

Porte will immediately give its military authorities the necessary instructions, and the delegates of the Powers will have to come to an understanding with them and the Commanders of the two Principalities upon the details, and upon the necessity of the points now in possession of the Imperial troops not being re-occupied by the Servians.

Confiding in the equity of the mediating Powers, Porte hopes also that they will take measures to prevent during the armistice the introduction of arms and ammunition and the influx of volunteers to take part in the struggle, the continuation of which must lead to serious complications.

Porte further expresses its conviction that the Powers will make the Principalities understand the necessity of respecting the obligations imposed by the armistice will prevent them from giving encouragement to the insurgents in the neighbouring provinces.

I would point out to your Lordship that the last parts of this communication express the hopes and wishes of Porte, but do not give them as the conditions of its acceptation of the armistice.

No. 287.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 13.)

Therapia, October 12, 1876, 7·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE has communicated the proposed reforms by an official note, which it asks the Representatives to forward to their Governments. It recapitulates the law of the vilayets, never put fully into execution in the preceding reign.

Remedy for grievances is to be found in a new organization giving the Provincial Assemblies a fresh development and vigour.

A General Assembly, elected by the populations of the capital and of the provinces, will be held at Constantinople, to vote the laws, the budget, and the taxes. A Second Chamber, of the nature of a Senate, with limited powers, will be nominated by the Porte.

In regard to provinces, the new law will accord the right of election on a large scale; and will comprise the reforms recommended for Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Provincial General Councils will watch over the execution of the laws; and in order not to leave the Executive Authorities without control during the intervals of the sessions, elective Administrative Councils will restrain the officials from arbitrary acts.

Manner of levying taxes will be reformed, and a portion of them locally expended; the administration of justice to be reorganized, and the whole provincial organization to be

* Repeated to Embassies.

completed as far as possible. Engagements taken by the Porte by its note of the 12th February, respecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be maintained.

This new organization of all the provinces, giving such extended attributions to local Councils, will satisfy the want generally felt for a radical improvement, and offer sufficient guarantees for a good administration, without giving exceptional privileges, exciting fallacious hopes on the one side and undeserved encouragement on the other, or increasing the unfortunate animosities between the different classes of the subjects of the Empire.

No mention is made of administrative autonomy, and the above must be taken as a counter-proposal.

No. 288.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

(Confidential.)

"Austrian Agent tells me that the Prince has decided to go to Vienna as soon as the armistice is settled to plead his own cause and to treat especially respecting the refugees. This intention is not to be officially communicated to Servia till the last moment. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed that the Emperor will give His Highness a cordial reception as an independent Prince, but will not do the same by Prince Milan.

"Italian Agent informs me most confidentially that he, by orders of his Government, proposed last night to Prince Nicholas that he should negotiate independently of Servia, and that His Highness gave a favourable answer."

No. 289.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13.)

Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. MONSON informs me that the Austrian Agent urges him to ask for leave of absence, in order that he may accompany the Prince of Montenegro to Vienna; and, as his presence at Ragusa is not likely to be required during the armistice, and he may be useful here from being on a confidential footing with His Highness, I hope your Lordship will see no objection to complying with his suggestion.

No. 290.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 13, 10·30 P.M.)

Therapia, October 13, 1876, 11 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE the honour to point out to your Lordship that the note by which the Porte, declaring its readiness to accept decisions of Powers upon the conditions of peace, agrees to an armistice, although of the same date as the note notifying the reforms, is of an earlier number in the series.

It is it, therefore, that should be considered as the answer to the proposal of the Powers.

No. 291.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, October 13, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WHEN is the Emperor expected to return to St. Petersburgh?

No. 292.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

FROM conversation yesterday and to-day with Russian Ambassador I fear that his Government is indisposed to accept armistice, but nothing is decided.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, you may instruct Mr. Monson to proceed to Vienna, so as to be there at the same time as the Prince, should His Highness carry out his intention of going.

No. 294.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, ask Italian Government what grounds they have for belief that it will be ruin to Servia and Montenegro to accept armistice, and urge upon them that the refusal of Italian Government may have disastrous consequences in showing divisions among the Powers, and encouraging the prosecution of the war by Servia, and the continuance of bloodshed with possible European complications. Her Majesty's Government trust, therefore, that on further consideration Italy will not withhold support to the action taken by England, Germany, Austria, and France.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 5·25 P.M.

REPEAT telegram from Sir H. Elliot of October 12, forwarded to you to-day, commencing "By an official note" to Messrs. Monson and White, and instruct former to urge upon Prince of Montenegro that no difficulties should be thrown in the way of a prompt arrangement of the armistice.

No. 296.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

I HAVE requested the German Ambassador to press on his Government strongly the importance of the armistice being accepted by Russia. German influence may do much at the present moment. The Russian Government hesitates and seems disposed to refuse.

Refusal will involve serious danger to European peace.

You are desired to speak in the same sense to M. Bülow.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

† Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

No. 297.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

Berlin, October 13, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Government have urged acceptance of armistice on Servia.

No. 298.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 6·15 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has read to me a telegram from his Government, who accept Turkish proposal of five months' armistice, and will do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States. They will also use their best efforts at Belgrade and with Prince of Montenegro, who they think likely to listen to Austrian advice.

Austrian Government cannot determine their course as to Conference without knowing programme. They consider exclusion of Turkish Representative contrary to Treaty of Paris. They hope, therefore, that questions of armistice and Conference may be kept separate, and armistice agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to future negotiations.

No. 299.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 512. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD a conversation to-day with the Russian Ambassador on the subject of the acceptance or rejection by his Government of the armistice proposed by the Porte. His Excellency did not conceal from me his apprehension as to the view that might be taken at Livadia, and expressed himself anxious to do whatever was in his power to remove the objections which appeared to be entertained by his Government.

This conversation being entirely of a confidential and unofficial character, I do not repeat it; but I took the opportunity of impressing, in the strongest manner, on Count Schouvaloff the danger to European peace that would ensue if this armistice was rejected altogether, or if its acceptance were coupled with impossible conditions. I pointed out to his Excellency the change of opinion that had already manifested itself in England since the Russian project of an occupation of Bulgaria became known; and I warned him, that however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. Rightly or wrongly, I said, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be, that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 300.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 651.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE requested Count Münster to press strongly on the German Government the importance of the acceptance by Russia of the armistice; and I have pointed out to him that the influence of Germany may be most useful at the present moment, when the Russian Government, by its hesitation and apparent disposition to refuse the armistice, is preparing serious complications, as the refusal could not fail to involve serious danger to the peace of Europe.

It is my wish that your Excellency should speak in the same sense to Herr von Bülow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 301.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 432.)
Foreign Office, October 13, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating that the Austrian Government have decided to accept the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice, and to do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States.

Count Andrassy adds that he will use his best efforts for this purpose at Belgrade, though Austrian influence is not predominent there; and that he will make similar representations to the Prince of Montenegro, who, he thinks, is likely to listen to the advice of Austria.

As regards the question of a Conference the Austrian Government state that they cannot determine their course without knowing what the programme of its deliberations is to be.

They think that the exclusion of a Turkish Representative would be contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1856. They hope therefore that the two questions of armistice and Conference will be kept separate, and that the armistice will be agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to the course or form of the subsequent negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 302.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 433.)
Foreign Office, October 13, 1876.

Sir,

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to communicate to Mr. Monson the substance of the information which has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as to the proposal which has been made by the Porte of an armistice of six months, to date from the beginning of October; and you will instruct him to urge the Prince of Montenegro to throw no difficulties in the way of a prompt acceptance of the armistice as far as Montenegro is concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 303.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 486.)
Foreign Office, October 13, 1876.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. White reporting the friendly co-operation which he had met with from his Italian colleague at Belgrade, and I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of informing the Italian Government of this report, and expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at this instance of the good relations between the English and Italian agents in Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 304.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, October 13, 1876, 6·45 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks me to say that he hopes your Lordship will insist on the armistice being for two months.

He believes this will be the only way to maintain the union of the Powers.

No. 305.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 72.)
Scutari, October 3, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 68 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have now reason to believe that the news concerning the cession of Spuz and the Koutchi district was conveyed to Mr. Speyer by order of the Russian political agents in Montenegro, who, it appears, were anxious to establish by practical proof the correctness of their assertion that the Mohammedans in these parts would offer no opposition to any concessions made by Turkey to Montenegro.

The authorities here are now endeavouring to spread the report that the Mohammedans, the moment they became aware of Mr. Speyer's news, took steps for making known to the Porte their intention of resisting the execution of the arrangement that, it was alleged, had been come to with Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 306.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Bucharest, October 7, 1876.

My Lord,

VARIOUS reports have been put in circulation at this place respecting the mobilization of the Roumanian army and other matters connected with the departure of M. Bratiano for Livadia, which will doubtless get into the newspapers and attract your Lordship's notice.

I waited upon M. Jonesco yesterday afternoon, and he informs me that the assembling of the army in divisions is obligatory once a year under provision No. 10 of the Constitution, that there is nothing unusual in the present orders; and indeed I may add, the Prince told me five weeks since that such would take place long before the disquieting mission of General Samarokoff had been noised abroad.

M. Bratiano starts for Livadia to-morrow night, accompanied by the Minister of War, Colonel Slaniceano, M. Vacaresco, Maréchal de Cour, and an Aide-de-camp of the Prince, Major Singurof.

The Mission is, in the first instance, to compliment the Emperor of Russia on his arrival in the Crimea, and M. Bratiano will also lay before Prince Gortchakow the earnest desire of this country to remain clear of all complications which might arise out of the Russian policy in the East, they appeal to Russia as one of the Guaranteeing Powers for the security of their position, &c.

I told M. Jonesco that I had been given to understand that the War Minister was in favour of a more adventurous policy on the part of Roumania, and that it was to be feared that he might commit himself to some indiscretion.

The Minister assured me that such apprehensions were groundless, that the Minister of War was quite in accord with his colleagues, and that he had instructions to subordinate himself entirely to M. Bratiano.

There are all sorts of stories, that Prince Charles has given secret instructions to the Minister of War to place the Roumanian army at the disposal of Russia, but I have no reason to believe that such is the case, and at a private audience which I had of the Prince on Monday the 2nd instant I could not discover the smallest indication that His Highness is not entirely with the policy of his Ministers.

He said, "I have no fears of any sort; our position is perfectly defined, and I have every confidence in the Guaranteeing Powers."

M. Jonesco denies that the railway administration has received any communication from the Russian Government, but it appears to me quite possible that some one connected with the Russian railways with which this Company is in correspondence and combination, may have sent a private letter to some one of the employés of the Roumanian Railway, which would give colour to the statement which I related in despatch No. 17 of the 4th instant.

There is a thorough panic in this country in consequence of the Mission of General Sumarokoff, and every idle rumour finds ready credence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 307.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 14.)

(No. 189.)
Sir, *Budn-Pest, October 7, 1876.*

TO questions respecting the passage of Russians through Hungary and Roumania, and also of contraband of war through the latter to Servia, M. Tisza yesterday replied in the House of Deputies that as regards Roumania he had no official knowledge, but that as regards Hungary he could state that the most part of the Russians did belong to the "Red Cross," whilst others had passports in due order; that Austria-Hungary being neutral could not take notice of breaches of neutrality in another State like Roumania, and that it was not usual or her duty to inquire in Servia whether the Russians of the "Red Cross" remained true to their description. But, his Excellency added, representations as to a misuse of the "Red Cross" here had been made at St. Petersburgh, and precautions against its recurrence had been taken by the Russian Government.

As regards the detention of the parties of Russians on the 27th and 28th of August last, the police authorities acted rightly in detaining for inquiry into their passports persons who acted contrary to the Police Regulations of the city, and their release was based upon the fact that their passports were all in due order, and that one State respects the passports of another State.

As regards the Proclamation of Prince Milan as King, his Excellency said that all the Powers, and even the Servian Cabinet and the Prince himself, had accepted for basis the *status quo ante*, which knew no king of Servia.

M. Tisza concluded by saying that "the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which, in the Eastern question, was fully supported by the Hungarian Cabinet, is striving to maintain peace for our fatherland, and to maintain it in such a manner that our interests shall not to-day be prejudiced nor future dangers arise; indeed so to keep the peace in conjunction with the European Powers as to secure for one thing a better lot to the people of Turkey, and as thus to establish confidence in the stableness of tranquillity."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 308.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, October 10, 1876.*

I REGRET to have to report that political agitation, bearing on the pretentions of Greece as against Turkey, has begun to set in in these islands.

Here at Corfu, within the last few days, on two evenings, when the civic band played on the Esplanade, the Montenegrin National Anthem was called for by the assembled crowd, and on being played by the band was enthusiastically cheered, while showers of rockets were discharged as a mark of honour and sympathy with the cause of the insurgents.

2. The inclosed copy of a private Report, received this morning from Mr. Stevens, of Zante, will speak as to the doings in that island.

As respects M. Zaimis' share in the demonstration described by Mr. Stevens, it is

altogether in keeping with the generally credited opinion that Zaimis is setting up for the succession to M. Coumoundouros, who is expected to be turned out by a vote of the Legislative Assembly at Athens as soon as possible after that body is constituted.

As Mr. Stevens has no cypher I shall not learn the results of Dr. Lombardo's demonstration before this day week.

Cephalonia has not stirred so far, nor Santa Maura, and as long as those two islands remain quiet, actual disturbances are little to be apprehended.

The difference in this respect between Zante and Cephalonia and Santa Maura is this, the natives of the former island talk a great deal, but do not fight; the natives of the two latter islands talk little and are always ready to fight at a moment's notice. Hence the difficulty of having to deal with them.

3. M. Onofrio reports to me from Santa Maura, that when at Prevesa on his way down Vice-Consul Blakeney stated, in answer to a question put to him by Commander Darwell, that "he had no doubt the Christians would rise should they receive the *mot d'ordre* from Greece, and the assurance that she would back them."

M. Onofrio also sends me the unwelcome, although expected tidings, that Colonel Grivas has established himself at his seat in Acarnania, in the vicinity of Santa Maura, and that he is determined not to go to Athens to be put on his trial along with the other Members of the Bulgari Ministry should any attempt at compulsion be resorted to; then war will ensue in good earnest.

Grivas has many of the qualities of a military leader, and, as Minister at War, acquired great popularity with the army, as just, although severe in maintaining discipline, and impartial in dealing out promotion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Vice-Consul Stevens to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Zante, October 7, 1876.

My Dear Sir Charles,

UP to the end of last week Eastern affairs were quietly discussed here in the casinos and cafés. Opinions seemed divided, some sympathised with the Slaves, and others looked upon their acts and tendencies as detrimental to Greek views and interests, when suddenly telegraphic intelligence of meetings at Athens and Patras reached the Roma family, with whom their relative Zaimis is at present staying. Upon this the Romas took the initiative, and called upon their friends and partizans of country and town to meet on the public square of this town at 3 o'clock P.M. on Thursday last.

Between 2,500 to 3,000 individuals of all classes responded by their presence to the appeal. They were addressed first by a Signor Cochini, next by Signor Verichio, and thirdly by Count Spiridione Roma.

The pith of these speeches is that a Committee be formed to express the wishes of the people of Zante to the Greek Government, that it should, without loss of time, patronise the national interests of the whole Greek race, and move in the proper direction to obtain, by efficient means, the independence of those who are at present under Turkish dominion.

At the end of this, the whole meeting, headed by Roma, Count Salomos, Count Lunzi, and Bulzo, proceeded to the Church of St. Denis, where prayers were offered for the realization of their views.

On returning from the Church they stopped under the Nomarch's house, who, with words of sympathy, (and) assured them that he would forthwith convey the expression of their patriotic feeling to the Government at Athens.

On the evening of the same day a telegram, signed by those who had addressed the meeting on the piazza, and several others, among whom was Count Lunzi, was sent to Mr. Gladstone, thanking him for his Philhellenic propensities, and urging him to move the people of England in favour of the rights and aspirations of Greeks who live under Turkish rule.

On the following day similar telegrams were sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Russell, and Viscount Radcliffe.

I believe to have thus given you, in brief, an accurate account of what has passed at Zante during the week.

I readily admit that generally there exists among people here a certain degree of

patriotic feeling, but I am not inclined to think that, at present, it will lead to sacrifice of life, or the spending of much money.

I do not think I err in believing that in all that has occurred during the week, the rivalry between the leading members of the movement and Lombardo had its part. The antagonism is a question of power in the administration of Government, and each party takes advantage of any and every opportunity, and frequently, careless as to the means they adopt, to undermine each other, and obtain preponderance in popularity for electoral purposes. Lombardo has been the master of his antagonists in the art of demagogy, and it now seems they are deriving advantage of his lessons and example.

Ever yours, &c.

(Signed) R. C. M. STEVENS.

Sunday morning.

Lombardo arrived here last Friday by Greek steamer. He has called upon his partizans to meet on the old parade ground this afternoon to hear his opinion on the state of political affairs. The meeting takes place at 4 o'clock P.M., and as the mail closes at 6 I will have no time to give you an account of the proceedings.

R. C. M. S.

No. 309.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Therapia, October 13, 1876, 6·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT appeared at a meeting of the Representatives to-day that the German Ambassador and Russian Chargé d'Affaires in communicating to their Governments the acceptance of the armistice had represented the Porte as having accompanied it with certain conditions. We pointed out that wishes and hopes were expressed by the Porte, but no conditions of acceptance laid down. They said that this had escaped their observation, but they promised to telegraph to their Governments to correct the inaccuracy of their first reports.

No. 310.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Therapia, October 13, 1876, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MY colleagues who met at my house to-day decided that it might be well for us to suggest to our respective Governments that they should at once take steps for sending qualified officers with proper instructions for concerting the details of an armistice.

There are points which may require agreement between the Cabinets, but these need not necessarily be settled before the officers are despatched.

I should be glad to be informed, as soon as a decision is taken, whether it is proposed that a Military Commissioner should be sent by each of the mediating Powers to both of the Principalities.

No. 311.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Vienna, October 13, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is from Monson:—

"War Party being instructed to advocate armistice, found the Prince this morning very reserved and averse to pledge himself, chiefly on account of proposed long duration.

"Russia and Servia seem to work upon His Highness against armistice.

"Austrian agent has telegraphed for instructions, and I venture to ask your Lordship's orders as to language I should use."

No. 312.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE subjoined figures have been sent to Monson:—

"I have forwarded to Lord Derby your telegram respecting difficulty of inducing Prince of Montenegro to consent to the armistice, but you may safely support Austrian Agent if he is instructed to advocate its acceptance, as Lord Derby has on the Russian and Austrian Governments, Servia being induced to do so.

"Prince Nicholas cannot advance his interests better than by complying with the wishes of Austria and England on the subject.

"A telegram just received from Lord Derby informs me that the German Government have urged acceptance of armistice on Servia."

No. 313.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

Livadia, le [illegible] *Octobre*, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

NE croyons pas armistice de six mois nécessaire ou favorable à conclusion d'une paix durable que désirons. Ne saurions exercer pression sur Serbie et Monténégro pour les faire consentir à incertitude aussi prolongée de leur situation difficile; enfin trouvons que position financière et commerciale de toute l'Europe déjà intolérable, souffrirait encore de ce délai. Devons insister sur armistice d'un mois à six semaines, proposition primitive de l'Angleterre, sauf à le prolonger si la marche des négociations en démontre la nécessité.

No. 314.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy that a telegraphic despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that it may be necessary that foreign Military Delegates should be sent without loss of time to the Turkish, Servian, and Montenegrin armies to concert with the several Commanders the terms of the armistice proposed by the Porte.

Lord Derby has stated to the Representatives of Her Majesty at the Courts of the Powers that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to send Military Delegates, and I am accordingly to suggest that Major-General Sir A. Kemball should be named to act at the Turkish, and Major Gonne at the Servian, head-quarters, and to inquire whether Mr. Hardy concurs in this arrangement, and will be good enough to inform Lord Derby of the officer whom he would recommend should be sent to Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 315.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Vienna, October 14, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 688 of the 5th instant, the Turkish Ambassador tells me, in strict confidence, that it has been in consequence of Count Andrassy's advice sent through him to Grand Vizier, that the clause respecting entrance of Russians into Servia has been included among proposals of Porte attached to the communication accepting the armistice.

No. 316.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, 3·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 14, 1876, 12·22 P.M.*

I HAVE spoken to M. Bülow in the same sense as your Lordship to Count Münster, urging strongly the importance of armistice being accepted by Russia. M. Bülow will submit the views of Her Majesty's Government at once to Emperor and to Chancellor. German Government will do all in their power to promote the maintenance of peace.

No. 317.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.*
(Confidential.)

IN a conversation yesterday with the Russian Ambassador I took the opportunity of impressing in the strongest manner on Count Schouvaloff the danger to European peace that would ensue if this armistice were rejected altogether, or if its acceptance were coupled with impossible conditions.

I pointed out to his Excellency the change of opinion that had already manifested itself in England since the Russian project of an occupation of Bulgaria became known; and I warned him that, however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. Rightly or wrongly, I said, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

No. 318.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1876, 1 P.M.*

ACCORDING to present arrangements Emperor will return to St. Petersburgh on December 2nd.

No. 319.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve instructions sent by you to Mr. Monson, as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 320.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876, 7·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 13th, refer Mr. Monson to instructions sent yesterday. He should urge acceptance of armistice, to which Austria, Germany, and France have already assented. You may inform him confidentially that Italy is objecting to the length of armistice, and that Her Majesty's Government are strongly urging its acceptance on Italian Government.

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* Repeated to Embassies confidentially.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 437.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.*

Sir,

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of the 13th instant, that, having heard from Mr. Monson that he feared that it might be difficult to induce the Prince of Montenegro to accept the armistice, you had instructed him that he might safely support the Austrian Agent, if he should be instructed to urge its acceptance, and that he might tell the Prince that he could not better advance his interests than by complying with the wishes of England and Austria.

I approve your having given him these instructions; and you are now aware that I had, in anticipation of receiving a communication on the subject from Mr. Monson, requested you to direct him to take the initiative in urging the Prince to throw no difficulties in the way of a prompt acceptance of the armistice. As he evidently fears that such difficulties may be made, it will be well that you should again direct him to do all in his power to remove them, informing him at the same time that the armistice has been already accepted by Austria, Germany, and France.

I further authorize your Excellency to inform him, confidentially, that Italy is raising objections to the conclusion of an armistice for so long a period as that proposed by the Porte, and that Her Majesty's Government are using their best endeavours to remove these objections.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 322.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

(No. 438.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.*

Sir,

YOU are aware from the information which has been sent you by telegraph that Sir Henry Elliot has reported that it had been decided, at a meeting between himself and his colleagues, that it should be suggested to their respective Governments that steps should at once be taken for sending officers duly qualified and properly instructed, to concert the details of an armistice; and that he had requested to be informed, as soon as a decision should be taken, whether it was proposed that the mediating Powers should send a military Commission to both the Principalities.

It is desirable that your Excellency should know that, as far as Her Majesty's Government are concerned, the decision is already taken. They are ready to appoint at once officers to the Turkish and Servian armies, as well as to that of Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 323.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.†

(No. 440.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.*

Sir,

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's confidential information only, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to-day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh,‡ recording a conversation which I have had with Count Schouvaloff on the subject of the acceptance by the Powers of the armistice proposed by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell and Lord Lyons.
† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell and Sir H. Elliot.
‡ No. 299.

No. 324.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14.)

Vienna, October 14, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Government having expressed objections to accepting armistice for more than six weeks, it seemed to me uncertain, from Baron Orczy's language to-day, whether Count Andrassy will persist in an intention to accept the six months proposed by the Porte.

On his intimating that his Excellency had not expressed any opinion on the duration of the armistice, I said to him that I believed your Lordship to understand that the Turkish proposal would be supported by Germany, Austria, and France, as well as by England.

To this he answered that Count Beust had been merely instructed to express in general terms Count Andrassy's favourable opinion of the Turkish proposal, and the reasons by which it is supported, but that he is waiting to know the decision of Her Majesty's Government before taking on himself as to its entire acceptance.

No. 325.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 14.)

Belgrade, October 14, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Representative, M. Kartzoff, says that until he receives from the Emperor Alexander instructions to recommend Prince Milan to accept the long armistice of six months as proposed by the Porte, he has not any yet. Without his efficient support no chance of acceptance.

Indeed, simple re-establishment of peace on the *status quo* basis at once would have far better chance, as the prolongation of state of uncertainty rallies to the same view hostile to an armistice numerous peacefully inclined persons as well as the partisans of war.

No. 326.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.†

Foreign Office, October 14, 1876, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of last night, Her Majesty's Government are unable to see any reason for reducing the armistice to two months, and have already joined the other Powers, as stated in telegram of yesterday, in accepting Turkish proposal. Urge most strongly on the Italian Government not to separate their action from that of Austria and the other Powers who have also already assented. By doing so they will incur the gravest responsibility. Remind Minister for Foreign Affairs of his previous assurances of desire to act with England, whose interests, like those of Italy, are in the preservation of European peace.

No. 327.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.‡

Foreign Office, October 14, 1876, 7·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to instruction to Her Majesty's Representatives, repeated to you, respecting proposal to appoint military delegates to arrange armistice, tell Italian Government what Her Majesty's Government have done on the suggestion of Sir H. Elliot and his colleagues, and express hope that they will join.

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* Repeated to Embassies.
† Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.
‡ Repeated to St. Petersburgh

No. 328.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 14.)

St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE urged on Imperial Government acceptance of armistice and importance of inducing Servia and Montenegro to do so.

Minister for Foreign Affairs says that Prince Gortchakow has not yet stated his decision. He considers that the difficulties are as follows: the exclusion of the insurgents; the prohibition to Principalities of receiving volunteers, arms, and ammunition, and of giving encouragement to insurgents.

I pointed out to him that these did not appear to be stated as conditions, but merely as hopes of the Porte.

The Russian press is strong against the armistice, and considers it unacceptable.

No. 329.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14, *at night.*)

Rome, October 14, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE following is the answer which Minister for Foreign Affairs makes to your Lordship's request:—

"He is willing to follow the example of England, France, Germany, and Austria, but he desires to submit to the Powers his views concerning the complications which a six months' armistice would inevitably create, especially as regards the Principalities and the insurgent provinces. As proof that he is favourable in principle to an armistice, he has named the persons who should act for Italy in regulating its military details."

Italian Ambassador is instructed to communicate these views to your Lordship.

No. 330.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 14, *at night.*)

Rome, October 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the views of the Russian Government, stating that it considers six weeks or two months to be long enough for the armistice, and that it cannot use pressure to induce Servia and Montenegro to accept six months' armistice.

Minister for Foreign Affairs urgently deprecates the idea which he fears may be entertained, that in withholding up to this moment any recommendation to those Principalities to accept the proposed armistice, he is following the lead of Russia.

No. 331.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 15.)

Vienna, October 14, 1876, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson:—

"I have communicated to Prince Nicholas substance of Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 12th instant, and I have urged His Highness to accept the armistice. Prince Nicholas charged me to assure your Lordship of his own pacific disposition and desire to conclude the war, in spite of the advantages gained by Montenegro. He thinks the conditions of the armistice as proposed by the Porte perfectly acceptable, and that there is no reason why Servia should refuse them. He cannot give a final reply until he has consulted Prince Milan and considered the details proposed.

"I think there is every reason to believe that he will accept and use his influence to make Servia accept also.

"I was enabled to make great impression upon him by your Lordship's telegram, authorizing me to accompany him to Vienna. This intimation gave him very great pleasure.

* Repeated to Embassies.

"He again mentioned his anxiety that Her Majesty's Government should accredit an Agent to him.

"I am perfectly satisfied with the interview, which has apparently changed the position of affairs here."

No. 332.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Berlin, October 15, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW'S private opinion is that Russia wants to get the armistice reduced to two months, with power of prolongation, if necessary, by the Guaranteeing Governments.

Italy supports Russia with hopes of territorial compensation in the future. M. Nigra is suspected of having spoken in this sense at St. Petersburgh.

No. 333.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 15, 1876, 9·20 A.M.*

BATTLE was fought yesterday at Mosels, close to Spuz. Turks claim to have taken the enemy's positions.

No. 334.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 11·50 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have addressed the following letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

"Dear Count Andrassy,

"As Baron Orczy seemed yesterday to have some doubt as to the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting expediency of accepting the Turkish proposal of an armistice for six months, I think it right to lose no time in confirming what I then said to his Excellency on the subject, by informing you that the English Chargé d'Affaires at Rome was yesterday instructed to state to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a suggestion of his Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government are unable to see any reason for reducing the armistice to two months, and have already joined other Powers in accepting the Turkish proposal.

"I should like to have some conversation with you on the subject, if you could receive me in the course of the day."

No. 335.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, noon.*

ITALIAN Government has named the Italian Military Attaché at Vienna to act in concert with Servians in arrangement of details of the armistice, and Signor Durando is to give his assistance to Montenegro.

No. 336.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1876, 1 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government, as they usually do when they wish to be discourteous, sent *en clair* to their Chargé d'Affaires here a Circular telegram forwarded to their Representatives saying they must "insist" upon the armistice being for only one month or six weeks, the term to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows a necessity for it.

No. 337.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

BARON ORCZY'S language yesterday was apparently caused by his not knowing how far Count Andrassy might be influenced by the Russian objections to the armistice. Count Andrassy has, however, just told me himself that he maintains his acceptance of the proposal for the six months, which he has supported at Belgrade and Cettigné, leaving the wishes of the Porte as to the other points to be discussed hereafter; but he said he could not ascertain from Berlin whether the German Government had accepted.

I answered that it appeared from your Lordship's telegrams that Her Majesty's Government consider Russia and Italy to be the only Powers who have not yet done so.

He then said he has had no communication from Livadia, except Prince Gortchakow's telegram *en clair*, referred to in Lord Odo Russell's telegram of the 14th instant; but he learns from Count Beust that Count Schouvaloff has made a personal suggestion to your Lordship, that if Russia accepts Turkish proposal, her acceptance shall not deprive her of her own liberty of action, should she see cause to intervene before the termination of the six months.

Count Andrassy asks for explanations on this subject, and whether your Lordship would consider an acceptance of the armistice with such a reservation satisfactory, observing also that if one of the Powers made such reservations, the others would have equal right to do so. He had also received from Count Beust a report of your Lordship's warning to Count Schouvaloff, in which it is stated that the refusal of an armistice by Russia would be war. He asked me, therefore, against whom; and, trenting Count Beust's statements as information, I said to him I presumed Turkey.

Would it not be expedient, therefore, that I should acquaint his Excellency with what you really did say?

No. 338.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, 7 P.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs will telegraph in the (following?) sense to Belgrade and Montenegro:—

"At the request of England the other Powers appearing disposed accept the counter-proposals of the Porte, notwithstanding contrary (opinion?) of Russia, you will advise the Government of not to impede the benevolent intentions of Europe by an absolute refusal."

The Minister read to me a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Berlin dated yesterday 4 P.M., stating that the German Government, like the Italian Government, withheld its final decision concerning the proposed armistice.

No. 339.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 15.)

Therapia, October 15, 1876, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, Vice-Consul at Kustendje reports increased apprehension of danger to British subjects at Tchernavoda, and I have consequently requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" to proceed there for their protection.

No. 340.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 457.)

St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1876.

My Lord,

AT an interview I had to-day with M. de Giers, I mentioned to his Excellency that I had received information that M. de Jonin, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, who had apparently taken up his residence at the head-quarters of the Prince of Montenegro, had used his influence to dissuade His Highness from agreeing to the prolongation of the armistice which had been strongly urged upon him by the Austrian and French Consuls.

I observed to his Excellency that when all the Powers, Russia included, were doing their utmost to bring about an armistice, and a cessation of the effusion of blood, it was strange to find a Russian Agent acting in direct contradiction to those endeavours.

M. de Giers contested the fact of M. de Jonin having acted in the sense I had indicated, and his Excellency read to me a telegram which he had received from him on the previous evening, which was dated the 27th instant.

In that telegram M. Jonin states that Prince Nicolas had ordered a suspension of hostilities, but without fixing any term, as he could not do so without previous communication with the Prince of Servia.

He stated that the Prince of Montenegro was willing to conclude a formal armistice, but that he considered a mere suspension of hostilities as disadvantageous to his interests. It prevented him from forcing Moukhtar Pasha, who occupied a position on Montenegrin territory, to retire, which the Prince felt he was capable of doing, although the Pasha had profited of the suspension of hostilities to fortify his position.

M. de Jonin further reported, that on the request of the Grand Vizier, through Count Andrassy, the Prince of Montenegro, during the suspension of hostilities, had daily provisioned the fort of Medun, and that the Russian ambulance had likewise provided it with medical requirements.

M. de Giers spoke in terms of praise of the Prince of Montenegro, and said that he was anxious to act with moderation and humanity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 341.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 459.)

St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1876.

My Lord,

CABOULY PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, called on me yesterday, and I strongly advised him to warn his Government of the danger of their declining the conditions of peace which Sir H. Elliot had submitted to the Porte, and which had been supported by all the Great Powers, and to notify to them his fears that grave measures would result from their rejection.

As the decision of the Council would probably not take place before Sunday, there would still be time for the Porte to receive his communication before the decisive answer was given to the Ambassadors.

His Excellency stated that he would telegraph immediately to the Porte in the sense I had mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 342.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 468.)

St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Cesarewitch left Czarskoe Selo on the evening of the 4th instant for Livadia in pursuance of a telegraphic instruction from the Emperor.

So little prepared was his Imperial Highness for this sudden summons that he had invited a party to dinner on that day, which was instantly countermanded, and His Imperial Highness left by special train two hours before the time named for his guests to assemble.

I have been since informed that the Cesarewitch was accompanied by a General of high repute as a strategist, but whose name I have not been able to learn.

I was also informed at the same time that the departure of General Ignatiew from Livadia for Constantinople had been postponed.

These incidents have given rise to much speculation, and to the belief that some important decision is on the eve of being taken in regard to Oriental affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 343.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 468.)

St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I CALLED at the Foreign Office to-day, and, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I informed M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government considered that the armistice which had been proposed by the Imperial Government should be immediately followed by a Conference.

M. de Giers had not yet received from Livadia information of the telegram which had been addressed to Count Schouvaloff, proposing an armistice of six weeks, and my communication to him was the first intimation he had received on the subject.

M. de Giers informed me that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to him confidentially a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that the Austro-Hungarian Government had declined the Russian proposal to Austria to occupy Bosnia, and that they were disposed to participate in the naval demonstration.

I inquired from M. de Giers whether, in this communication, Count Andrassy had made any allusion to the proposed Russian occupation of Bulgaria, either in the way of approval or disapproval.

M. de Giers replied that no reference of any kind was made to the Russian occupation of Bulgaria, and he could not therefore say what was the opinion of Count Andrassy in regard to it.

It appears to me of some importance to ascertain whether, in declining the Russian proposal as regarded Bosnia, Count Andrassy meant his rejection of the Russian proposal to apply equally to the proposed Russian occupation of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 344.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 475.)

St. Petersburgh, October 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I AM informed that a Mr. Alexander has lately visited St. Petersburgh, charged by Mr. Gladstone to procure the translation of his pamphlet, on the Bulgarian atrocities, into the Russian language.

This gentleman, who has not presented himself at Her Majesty's Embassy, appears to have placed himself in communication with the St. Petersburgh Slav Committee, in aid of the Christians, and that on attending one of their sittings, and in reply to a speech from a M. Philippow, introducing him to the Society, Mr. Alexander delivered an oration,

of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy, as given in the columns of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—I beg to inclose an extract from to-day's "Agence Russe" on the same subject.
A. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 344.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of September 26/October 8, 1876.

NOUS avons annoncé dernièrement que la brochure de M. Gladstone sur les atrocités de Bulgarie a été traduite en Russe: cette traduction a eu lieu sur le désir de M. Gladstone lui-même, qui avait chargé un de ses amis, M. Alexander, de se rendre dans ce but à St. Pétersbourg.

Le 18 Septembre M. Alexander a été invité à prendre part à une séance de la section Pétersbourgeoise du Comité Slave de bienfaisance. A son arrivée la bienvenue a été souhaitée au sympathique étranger par M. T. Philippow. M. Alexander, de son côté, a répondu à l'allocution du Président du Comité par le discours suivant, que nos journaux reproduisent:

"Je comprends très bien que ce n'est point à mon propre mérite, mais à l'amitié dont m'honore le grand homme d'Etat de mon pays, que je dois l'accueil flatteur dont je me vois l'objet. Je ne suis que la pâle ombre de ce grand homme, mais l'humble rôle que je joue et qui m'a permis de me mettre en contact avec vous restera un des meilleurs souvenirs de ma vie. Je serai heureux d'emporter la conviction d'avoir, dans la mesure de mes forces, prêté mon assistance à une œuvre bonne, grande et sacrée; la pensée m'est chère surtout d'avoir, moi aussi, ajouté une pierre à cette imposante pyramide que vous élevez en l'honneur de l'humanité, d'avoir appuyé votre énergique protestation contre la tyrannie la plus odieuse qui ait jamais désolé le monde. L'histoire offre bien des pages rougies de sang, bien des pages rendues presque illisibles par les larmes qui les ont trempées; mais c'est à la Turquie que revient le triste privilége de les avoir souillées d'horreurs qui doivent faire frémir des barbares. Les Turcs ont prouvé à la face du monde que la conscience et les sentiments de clémence leur sont étrangers.

"J'ai souvent entendu dire que le sang des martyrs est le ciment des religions, aussi suis-je profondément convaincu,—et vous partagez sans doute ma croyance,—que le sang versé aujourd'hui sans pitié en Bulgarie et répandu héroïquement en Serbie n'aura pas coulé en vain et qu'il produira une glorieuse moisson. La Turquie, par sa conduite, s'est elle-même condamnée au suicide. Lord Derby a déclaré, il n'y a pas longtemps, que nous avons accepté de garantir la Turquie contre les ennemis du dehors, mais que jamais nous n'avions pris sur nous de la garantir contre une maladie mortelle ou contre le suicide. *Quem Deus perdere vult, prius dementat.*

"En réalité il y a longtemps que la Turquie est malade et condamnée à mort, mais ce n'est que maintenant qu'elle opère l'acte de suicide. Elle est isolée et couverte de sa honte; tous se sont retirés d'elle avec dégoût, et nous, les Anglais, nous l'avons abandonnée aussi à sa destinée. La Turquie nous a coûté beaucoup d'argent et beaucoup de sang, mais tous nos sacrifices ont été vains et, ayant perdu tout espoir, nous sommes résolus à ne plus rien faire pour elle. Nous avons lutté contre vous, en nous efforçant de vous enlever le droit et la possibilité de protéger et de secourir les Chrétiens de la Turquie et nous sommes effrayés à présent en voyant que c'est sur nous que retombe une partie de la responsabilité de ce qui est arrivé. Nous ne reviendrons plus à nos anciens errements, maintenant que nous voyons clairement où notre conduite nous a menés. Nous ne nous contenterons plus de mesures diplomatiques à l'effet d'atteindre un *modus vivendi* temporaire, nous exigerons des améliorations radicales.

"Ce n'est pas seulement de la commisération pour les victimes et de la colère contre les bourreaux que nous éprouvons à présent, c'est aussi un sentiment de honte. Notre Gouvernement est loin d'être sous ce rapport l'interprète fidèle des sentiments du peuple Anglais; mais soyez certains que notre peuple est ferme dans ses désirs et ses exigences et que, sur la question qui nous occupe, il pense et il sent comme s'il n'avait qu'une seule tête et un seul cœur. Je parle ici au milieu de vous comme un simple citoyen de mon pays; mais je suis profondément convaincu que mon opinion est celle de la grande majorité de mes concitoyens.

"Dans ma patrie, non-seulement on ignore les vrais buts que la Russie poursuit à

l'égard de la Turquie, mais encore on professe à ce sujet les opinions les plus erronées. Cette circonstance est exploitée par des hommes politiques qui à tout bout de champ nous menacent du spectre de l'ambition Russe. Ils ne cessent de nous assurer que dans l'activité diplomatique en général et dans la question d'Orient en particulier il existe quelque chose de mystérieux, que de simples mortels sont incapables de saisir.

"Pendant mon court séjour en Russie, j'ai non-seulement beaucoup appris, mais,—et je m'en félicite,—j'ai beaucoup désappris; je veux dire que j'ai abandonné l'opinion complètement fausse que j'avais sur le compte de la Russie et je suis maintenant convaincu que si chez nous, en Angleterre, on comprenait mieux la Russie et les Russes, ce sentiment de jalousie mesquine qui faisait obstacle à une action commune en Orient devrait disparaître complètement. Je suis sûr aussi que si l'Angleterre et la Russie faisaient cause commune, on trouverait bientôt une solution donnant satisfaction à tout le monde.

"On m'a souvent dit que l'opinion publique Anglaise ne s'est émue qu'à la suite des atrocités commises en Bulgarie. Ceux qui disent cela ont parfaitement raison. Nous autres Anglais, nous formons une société très active et poussant loin le souci des affaires. Il n'y a point chez nous, comme en France, un café à chaque coin de rue, où nous allions tuer le temps et discuter bruyamment les questions politiques en négligeant la vie de la famille. Pour que l'opinion publique s'émeuve chez nous, il faut un événement extraordinaire, hors ligne. Ne dit-on pas, en Angleterre, que pour qu'on se préoccupe d'un accident de chemin de fer, il faut au moins 'qu'un évêque y ait péri.' C'est ainsi qu'on ne s'est ému chez nous qu'à la nouvelle des atrocités de Bulgarie. Mais à présent, que nous avons secoué notre torpeur léthargique, nous exigeons tous unanimement et énergiquement qu'on mette un terme une fois pour toutes à cette déplorable situation de la Turquie, qui est une honte pour l'humanité, qui déshonore notre siècle et qui entrave la marche de la civilisation. J'ai la certitude que nous assistons à cette heure au commencement de la fin de cet état de choses, que je ne saurais qualifier."

Inclosure 2 in No. 344.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of September 29/October 10, 1876.

LE Révérend M. Alexander, envoyé en Russie par M. Gladstone, avait prononcé ces jours-ci une chaleureuse allocution témoignant des sentiments d'estime que la nation Anglaise professe pour la nation Russe dans sa lutte contre les oppresseurs des Chrétiens. M. Lanansky a répondu à l'honorable gentleman par les paroles suivantes:—

"Il s'accomplit en ce moment un revirement remarquable dans l'opinion de l'Angleterre sur la Turquie et sur la Russie, ainsi que sur ce qui doivent être leurs relations réciproques. Nous autres Russes nous considérons ce revirement avec une vive sympathie. De récents adversaires et ennemis commencent à nous rendre justice. Nous voyons un illustre homme d'Etat condamner les errements suivis par le pouvoir. M. Gladstone s'est montré un partisan énergique des Chrétiens du Sud et ne ménage pas ses démonstrations sympathiques en leur faveur. Tout cela nous entretient dans l'espérance que les deux grands pays s'uniront dans une tâche commune, celle de la pacification de l'Orient. L'Angleterre semble vouloir revenir à la politique de Georges Canning. Puissions-nous revoir les beaux jours de Navarin!"

No. 345.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 477.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, October 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. de Reutern, Minister of Finance, has been summoned to Livadia, and left this yesterday evening for that residence, accompanied by his chef-de-cabinet, M. de Kobecko.

The sudden departure of the Finance Minister for Livadia, where at present the two important members of the Imperial Government, namely, the Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of War, are now in attendance on the Emperor, has caused some sensation in the official circles here, and in the present state of Eastern affairs gives rise to a suspicion that some important decision will be shortly taken by the Imperial Government.

The newspapers report that M. Bratiano, Minister-President of Roumania, accompanied by the Minister of War and an officer of the Staff, have likewise gone to Livadia

(whether by Imperial invitation or not I cannot say), ostensibly to compliment the Czar, but it is presumed for other purposes of a political and military nature.

I lately referred, in conversation with M. de Giers, to this subject, when he assured me that this Roumanian mission was merely of the usual complimentary nature; but I observed to him that it was unusual for a Minister-President, accompanied by the Minister of War and another officer of high standing, to be sent on a merely complimentary mission, and at a moment of such critical importance in regard to Eastern affairs.

M. de Giers either knows nothing, or professes to know nothing, of what is going on at Livadia.

All communications are carried on by telegraph direct from Livadia with the Russian Representatives at the Great Courts, and it is only after a lapse of some days, if even then, that he has cognisance of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 346.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 480.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the précis of an article from the "Moscow Gazette" in translation by Mr. J. Michell, asserting (in contradiction to a statement in Mr. Baring's Report), that there was no general insurrection in Bulgaria, but merely disconnected movements, and that there is no proof that even those isolated and insignificant attempts at open rebellion were instigated by foreigners.

In support of this statement the "Moscow Gazette" cites the evidence of Mr. Schuyler and Prince Tsertelelf.

No more striking evidence can be given of the instigation to insurrection by foreign emissaries than the letter of General Tchernaieff, written to the "Russki Mir," of which I inclosed a copy in translation in my despatch No. 271 of the 20th June.

I also annex an article from the "St. Petersburgh News" mentioning the activity of the Sestrovetsk Small Arms Factory, which is at work day and night, and turns out 300 rifles daily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 346.

Précis of Article in the "Moscow Gazette" of September $\frac{13}{25}$, 1876.

THE "Moscow Gazette" of the 13th September, 1876, contains a review of the reports of Messrs. Baring and Schuyler, and with reference to the statement made by the former that there was a rising in Bulgaria and that it was planned by foreign agitators, emphatically asserts that there was no general insurrection but only disconnected movements here and there, and that there is no proof that even these isolated and insignificant attempts at open rebellion were instigated by any foreigners. In support of this, the Gazette adduces the evidence of Mr. Schuyler and Prince Tsertelelf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 346.

Précis of Article in the "St. Petersburgh News."

THE "St. Petersburgh News" is informed that the activity of the Sestrovetsk Small Arms Factory, near St. Petersburgh, has lately considerably increased. The work is carried on both by day and night and 300 rifles are turned out complete every 24 hours.

No. 347.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 177. Political.) *Cettigné, October* 4, 1876.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS returned on the night of the 2nd instant, and was pleased to grant me an audience at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of yesterday.

In accordance with the suggestion which I made in my telegram of the 25th ultimo, I told His Highness that I was happy to believe that my presence in Montenegro would be accepted by him as a proof that Her Majesty's Government was animated by friendly feelings towards the Principality; and I trusted that I might be so fortunate as to be able to contribute, even in some very slight degree, to the re-establishment of peace. I stated that Her Majesty's Government had proposed to the Porte the *status quo* as regards Montenegro as one of the bases of negotiation; that my mission was to urge upon His Highness the expediency of concluding the war now, when by the goodwill of the Powers he might obtain better terms than he could hope to conquer by force; and I begged him to put it in my power to lay before Her Majesty's Government his views and wishes, promising him that I would take every care to represent faithfully whatever he might be pleased to communicate to me.

The Prince expressed great gratification at my arrival. He was aware, he said, that England had commanding influence at Constantinople; and he would be as frank as possible in the enunciation of his views. He wished Her Majesty's Government to know them thoroughly, and would that evening, with the map between us, go over with me the territorial changes which he desired. Meantime he wished to dissipate the idea, which he believed was current in England, that he was nothing but a "Lieutenant of the Czar." He respected and esteemed the Emperor Alexander; he was grateful to His Imperial Majesty for a long series of kindnesses, but he owed him no allegiance, "and," said His Highness, "I am, and I mean to be, as much master in my house as the Czar is in his." He was desirous also that England should be undeceived as to the character of the Montenegrins, and should understand that they were not the race of cruel, barbarous brigands," which he feared they had been represented to be. I should see for myself what they were—"bons enfants," patriotic and brave, but not naturally cruel, though they have, he admitted, certain faults, for which surrounding circumstances were more responsible than their own temperament. His Highness spoke with emotion of their bravery, self-abnegation, endurance, and attachment and devotion to himself. "Give us the chance," he went on, "and we will show that we can live on as good terms with the Turks as we do with the Austrians. I wish to be a good neighbour to the Sultan. It rests with him whether I shall be so; but an entire change of system in treating us is necessary for that result."

His Highness then touched upon the present position of affairs, and said that he had no intention of attacking the Turks if he were let alone. His people had done enough, and although only 560 Montenegrins had died on the field of battle, sufficient blood had been spilt, and he prayed that he might not be called upon to sacrifice more of his people. He was satisfied with his military position, and did not fear a disaster if the war continued, but it would be painful to him to have to consent to further loss of life. He spoke very bitterly of Servia, of the foreign influences at work there, and of the persistent maintenance of hostilities in the Morava Valley.

After more than half-an-hour's conversation, the Prince terminated the interview by inviting me to dinner in the evening. His manner had been most cordial, and most unaffectedly natural. I own that it made a great impression upon me, and that I begin to understand the passionate devotion which his people have for him. I cannot refrain from laying stress upon this point, because I think it essential that Her Majesty's Government should know the manner of man with whom they have to deal in Montenegro, and should be fully assured that the Prince is, as he says, "the master of his own house;" that a word from him will, in spite of foreign intrigue, induce his people to consent to peace, and that the utterance of that word depends upon his being able to rely upon fair and equitable treatment from the Porte in return for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 348.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 178. Political.)
Cettigné, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING heard before the audience which Prince Nicholas accorded me yesterday that His Highness had inquired whether I had any letter to present to him; and that M. Yonine was trying to make use of the fact that I had none to weaken the impression which my arrival had made upon the Prince; I took occasion to say to His Highness that I had no written instructions from your Lordship, but had left Ragusa immediately upon the receipt of telegraphic orders to proceed to Cettigné. His Highness observed in reply that he knew that I had no letter to him, but that he hoped that Her Majesty's Government would, before long, decide to send one.

M. Ceccaldi, the French Agent, who is Consul at Scutari, informs me that when he was appointed to that post in 1872 he received from M. de Rémusat a letter accrediting him to the Prince, in which all mention of Turkey was scrupulously avoided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 349.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 179. Political. Most Confidential.)
Cettigné, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to that passage in my despatch No. 177 of this day's date in which I have reported Prince Nicholas' language respecting the Czar, I have the honour to state that His Highness added, with marked emphasis, that although he entertained these sentiments of esteem and gratitude towards His Imperial Majesty and his family, he had by no means the same affection for Russians in general, but something very much the contrary.

The fact is that M. Yonine and his compatriots have behaved towards the Prince with such arrogance, and have assumed such airs of independence and of dictatorial consequence that they have greatly destroyed the influence which they might have had, and have succeeded in alienating the gratitude which the services of their surgeons and their ambulances might have won for them.

The Prince read me last night a letter which he had just received from the Empress of Russia respecting his three elder daughters, who are being educated at St. Petersburgh, which contained a very timely allusion to the desirability of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 350.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 180. Political.)
Cettigné, October 4, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING no opportunity of doing so last night, Prince Nicholas was so good as to show me this morning on the map the rectifications of frontier which he desires.

They are very much the same as I have recently reported to your Lordship, and are roughly as follows: the district of Nichsich, and that of Spuz, which resemble two wedges planted north and south in Montenegrin territory; those districts on the northern frontier the inhabitants of which owe nominal allegiance to the Porte, but are really subjects of Montenegro, applying to the Prince in all their contentions, and accepting his decisions as legal—such districts, namely, as the Banjani, Kolaschin, and the Suterina,—the Kuci tribe on the south-east, who have made common cause with Montenegro, should also become his subjects; the plain lying west of the Moratcha as far as the debouchure of the river into Lake Scutari, and the Saturnian district with the harbour of Spitza, are the chief accessions which His Highness desires on the east and south.

Altogether the number of his subjects would be increased by some five or six thousand, nearly all of whom profess the Orthodox faith, and many of whom have long been practically independent of the Porte.

The Prince spoke very earnestly to me about the port of Spitza. He said that, if England would procure him that concession, Montenegro would be eternally grateful. He wanted free access to the sea, that he might be able to import foreign goods direct, instead of through Austria or Turkey. He had metalliferous mountains which he wanted to work; rich ores of manganese and antimony, of which at present no advantage can be taken. He wanted liberty of communication with the outer world.

The commerce of the Principality could never be great, but surely England would encourage his efforts in this direction.

As for Spitza becoming a Russian port, let any one look at the map and be convinced that such a mite of a place could never become dangerous in that way.

Austria would of course be indisposed to help him to a seaport, preferring that he should be dependant upon Cattaro, and might propose, instead of Spitza, the free navigation of the Scutari Lake and the River Bojana; but in the first place the Bojana was not yet really navigable, and would require expensive works to make it so, which the Turks might never undertake; and in the second place he would be dependent on the caprice of the Pasha at Scutari, and he had experience enough to know what a mockery the concession of free navigation would be, when a Turkish official had always the power to stop it.

I daresay that the Prince hardly expects to get all that he asks; but if the Sultan could be induced to look upon these cessions as an act of generosity to a petty Principality, if the Porte would surrender some of the ninety-seven (!) fortified places by which she has hemmed in Montenegro (many of these being planted within easy gunshot of Montenegrin soil), and would recognise that these forts have been, not only an expense, but a weakness, useful neither for offensive nor for defensive purposes, and acting simply as an irritant to the mountaineers; if, in fact, Turkey would make the experiment of conciliation, it seems to me that she could lose but little of value, and would probably gain much in the present friendship of Montenegro and the future tranquillity of the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 351.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 182. Political.)
Cettigné, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS is very anxious to show, by every means in his power, that he knows how to carry on the war with courtesy towards the enemy.

The Grand Vizier having requested permission to send provisions into Medun during the late truce, His Highness replied that he would do that himself, on condition that he might be allowed to verify the number of the garrison, although he knew that the fortress was reduced to such straits that it must soon surrender from famine.

Again, Osman Pasha, who was taken prisoner at Vrbitza, having told Mr. Stillman that his health was affected by the monotony of his life at Cettigné, the Prince at once acceded to Mr. Stillman's proposition that he should allow the Pasha three weeks absence to go to Ragusa for change of air; and the Pasha is there now, having been supplied by the Prince with a sum of money far more than enough to pay his expenses handsomely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 352.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No 183. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

COLONEL THÖMMEL, the Austrian Military Agent, and M. Ceccaldi, the Representative of France, have been taking advantage of the Prince's extreme irritation at the course of events in Servia to press upon His Highness the expediency of concluding a separate armistice, and of severing his action altogether from that of Servia.

I believe that His Highness would do so at once but for two reasons: first, that he receives from Servia at the beginning of each month a small sum towards the expenses of the war; and, secondly, that, although he considers himself morally absolved by Servia's misconduct from the obligations of the Convention between the two Principalities, he does not like to appear to desert his hitherto unsuccessful ally.

M. Yonine, of course, works upon His Highness in the sense of preserving the alliance; and I really believe that he would rather see Montenegro suffer a reverse than that she should throw herself upon the generosity of the Porte and the goodwill of the Great Powers.

I have been very cautious in my language to the Prince, as I do not know how far the combinations of Her Majesty's Government, and the proposals for a general peace, might be prejudiced by any separate action here; although I can hardly imagine that there can be any reason for hesitating to co-operate in detaching Montenegro from Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 353.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 184. Political.)

Cettigné, October 6, 1876.

My Lord,

COLONEL THÖMMEL received in the course of last night two telegrams from Count Andrassy respecting the desire of the Porte for a continuance of the truce; and was in conference with the Prince for some hours.

His Highness at first agreed to send provisions every three days into Medun; and despatched a courier at once with orders to supply the first instalment to-day. Early this morning, however, he received a report that the troops were discontented at his previous generosity; and in particular the Kutchi, in whose district Medun is situated, protested that their alliance and services merited such a recognition as the capture of the fortress. The Prince thereupon decided that he would do no more than provision the fort till the 8th instant, and after that it must take its chance. He also requested Colonel Thömmel to explain to Count Andrassy that he was being hard pressed by many of his chiefs to resume the offensive against Moukhtar Pasha; and that therefore he earnestly begged the Great Powers to bring about a definite armistice at once.

Colonel Thömmel came to me upon leaving the Prince, and I agreed to telegraph to your Lordship in the same sense as he was going to do to Count Andrassy. M. Ceccaldi will address a similar telegram to the Duc Decazes.

The Prince has given provisional orders to his chiefs to remain on the defensive.

Moukhtar Pasha has been reinforced by six hundred Arnauts, five guns, and the greater part of the garrison at Trebigné. Five Montenegrin battalions have crossed the Tscherbinitza, and threaten his communications in the rear.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 354.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 13. Political. Confidential.)

Odessa, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I THINK it my duty to report that Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Carroll informs me from Poti, in a private letter dated 29th September, that 150,000 Russian troops are now ready near the Turco-Russian frontier for immediate action, the greater part of them being at Alexandropol.

There are no extraordinary movements to report here. It is, I believe, quite untrue, as stated in some newspapers, that there is a large Russian force in Bessarabia.

I have every reason to think the number does not exceed 15,000. I witnessed, a few days ago, a review of 10,000 troops, artillery, infantry, regular cavalry (Lancers) and Cossacks. This is about the number usually reviewed here at this time of the year.

Orders have been received to mount guns on the fort in construction at Ochakof within a month—it was not intended to have mounted them for upwards of a year. Torpedoes, of which fifteen have arrived, are to be laid down in Odessa Bay, and small works to be erected on shore for their protection.

The cargo already shipped on two of the largest steamers of the Russian Steam Navigation Company was taken out, the ostensible reason being that repairs were required. The belief is they were detained by order of the Government.

They have been permitted to go to their destinations, Marseilles and London.

Large bodies of volunteers continue to leave for Servia, and are blessed at the station by the "White Priests."

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 355.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 173. Political.)

Belgrade, October 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the two accompanying copies of telegrams addressed by General Chernayeff to the Servian Government on the subject of the mutilation of Servians wounded by Turkish troops, which I am about to report to your Lordship by telegraph (No. 174, Political.)

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 355.

Report of General Chernayeff to M. Ristitch.

Déligrade, le 3 Octobre, 1876.

VOUS ayant communiqué, dans le courant du mois dernier, que les prisonniers qu'il est arrivé à l'ennemi de faire et les blessés qui tombent entre ses mains sont condamnés aux plus atroces supplices avant d'être mis à mort, je crois devoir vous informer que le 20 Septembre au soir nos troupes, après avoir repris à l'ennemi une position abandonnée la veille, trouvèrent des corps de nos prisonniers blessés dans un état tel que l'esprit humain se réfuse à la croire possible. Les malheureux se trouvaient attachés à la terre par des chevilles de bois, les mains étendues, les pieds et d'autres parties du corps calcinés, les doigts de pied coupés, le bas-ventre mutilé au couteau, la figure contractée par les souffrances. La présence de cadavres des soldats nizams prouve que ces atrocités sont l'œuvre de troupes régulières.

La vérité de ce fait hideux est attestée par la parole d'honneur d'officiers, du Colonel de Preradovitch, du Capitaine Tikchanoff et d'autres témoins. Je vous prie de bien vouloir faire constater ce fait par des personnes qui jouissent de toute confiance de MM. les Agents Diplomatiques en Serbie. Nos troupes irréprochables jusqu'ici sont

tellement outrées des cruautés de l'ennemi que je crains à l'avenir de ne pas pouvoir les empêcher de commettre par droit de représailles les mêmes cruautés.

Inclosure 2 in No. 355.

Report of General Chernayeff to M. Ristitch.

Déligrade, le 4 Octobre, 1876.

DANS ma dépêche d'hier je vous ai informé des cruautés que les Turcs commettent sur ceux de nos blessés qu'ils font prisonniers. Aujourd'hui j'ai reçu un rapport du Lieutenant-Colonel Popovitch, Commandant de la position d'Alexinatz, dans lequel il me fait part qu'on a trouvé devant cette position sur la rive gauche de la Morava, à proximité du village de Bonimir des blessés Serbes cloués à la terre, mutilés, avec les membres coupés et brûlés.

Je m'empresse de vous en informer comme un exemple de plus de la barbarie Turque.

No. 356.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 440. Secret.)

Berlin, October 10, 1876.

My Lord,

HERR VON BULOW told me to-day that Prince Bismarck had been surprised to hear from Constantinople and from Rome that your Lordship had instructed Sir Henry Elliot to leave Constantinople if the Porte persisted in refusing an armistice. His Highness was anxious to know what truth there was in this report, so as to frame his policy accordingly. He believed the Russian Government to be favourable to such a measure; but he could not well believe that Her Majesty's Government would take so serious a step without communicating their intention to the Guaranteeing Powers, with whom they were acting in concert.

I did not feel at liberty to admit to Herr von Bülow that I was in possession of your Lordship's telegraphic instruction to Sir Henry Elliot of the 5th instant, which your Lordship distinctly tells me "not to communicate to the Government to which I am accredited," so I reminded his Excellency that I had some days since informed him that Sir H. Elliot had been instructed to use all the means in his power to prevail upon the Porte to grant an armistice, and I therefore thought it quite possible that Her Majesty's Ambassador might have endeavoured to overcome the obstinacy of the Turkish Government by pointing out the various and many serious consequences their resistance to the well-meant advice of the Powers might expose them to. I had myself in former years seen my respected Chief, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, resort to similar threats with never-failing success, and if Sir Henry Elliot had hinted at a possible rupture of relations, the measure would certainly not be resorted to without previous reference to Her Majesty's Government, and consultation with the Guaranteeing Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 357.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 441. Secret.)

Berlin, October 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I AM obliged to your Lordship for the telegraphic permission received to-day to communicate confidentially to the German Government your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant to Sir Henry Elliot, authorizing his Excellency to state to the Porte that he would leave Constantinople if the armistice were refused. Herr von Bülow was evidently gratified at my confidential communication, and thanked me for it very cordially, for his Excellency had shared the surprise felt by Prince Bismarck, and reported in my despatch No. 440, Secret, of the 10th instant, at so important an instruction of Her Majesty's Government having been made known to the German Government from Constantinople and Rome, and not in the first instance direct from London.

Prince Bismarck namely holds that after the repeated offers he has made since last January to support the policy of England in Turkey he has acquired the privilege of being kept informed of the measures Her Majesty's Government wish him to support, and since he had found out from Constantinople and Rome, and, as I have since learnt, also from Livadia, the secret instructions sent to Sir Henry Elliot on the 5th instant, I was glad your Lordship enabled me, by a prompt communication of the exact truth, to remove any Germanic susceptibility or touchiness His Serene Highness may have given way to at the discovery.

It is also possible that Prince Bismarck has not yet shaken off the impressions of the Mantcuffel Mission, reported in my despatch No. 432, Secret, of the 7th instant, and that he thinks or fears that England and Russia are growing too intimate to suit the future interests of Germany.

Until he returns to Berlin, and I speak to him myself, I cannot well judge of his state of mind in regard to pending questions.

As far as I can learn, however, he approves of the armistice, but dislikes the prospect of a Conference, the objections to which he shares with Count Andrassy.

Your Lordship will recollect that Prince Bismarck's earnest hope and wish was that Her Majesty's Government would be able to back up Count Andrassy's policy, believing the interests of England and Austria to be identical in Turkey, and that he would then be able to add the moral support of Germany to the combined advice of the two Powers most interested in the maintenance of an improved *status quo* in the Ottoman Empire, thereby keeping the national aspirations of Russia under control.

Events did not realize Prince Bismarck's hopes or calculations, and he now has to deal with an altered state of things. National influences have come into play; England and Russia are acting in concert at Constantinople; while Austria is drifting into a conflict at home between Magyar particularism and her general Imperial interests.

Prince Bismarck no longer sees his way to the support of Austria and the control of Russia through England, he holds his own and bides his time, and hopes for another change less favourable to Russia than the present constellation of affairs.

He also reckoned on a strong expression of public sympathy for Austria in opposition to Russia in the German press, which might have a certain influence on his Imperial master's mind. But it has not yet come, and on the whole he must perceive that public opinion in Germany has hitherto been less Hungarian and more Russian than he expected. Indeed there is in Germany far more sympathy for the cause Russia has taken up in Turkey than for the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire in Europe, and I see that Sir Andrew Buchanan, in one of his recent Confidential telegrams, says that the Members of the German Embassy in Vienna openly express these sentiments.

Public opinion may, however, undergo further changes under the influence of the coming events.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 358.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 442.)

Berlin, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant to Herr von Bülow respecting the importance of inducing Servia to accept the armistice, and his Excellency told me in reply that instructions had already been sent to the German Consul-General, Count Bray, to speak in the same sense as Her Majesty's Consul-General, Mr. White, to the Servian Government.

His Excellency said that the conditions of the armistice were not yet known, but that there was reason to fear that the proposed period of its duration might be objected to at Vienna and in Russia. The German Government had no wish to raise objections or to add to existing difficulties, and would, therefore, reserve their opinion until they were in possession of the views of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Regarding the proposed Conference, his Excellency said that Prince Bismarck agreed with your Lordship in thinking that it should not be entered into before its object had been clearly defined and accepted by the parties concerned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 359.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.——(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 448.)
Berlin, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, in original, a despatch and its inclosure, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Königsberg, respecting the conveyance by rail of troops in Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 359.

Consul Hertslet to Lord Odo Russell.

Königsberg, October 11, 1876.

My Lord,

ANNEXED, I have the honour to forward a statement which appeared in the Königsberg newspaper of yesterday evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. HERTSLET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 359.

Extract from "Königsberg Newspaper."

(Translation.)

SINCE about the last eight days the trains from the Russian side which were destined for here have been considerably curtailed, on account of the wagons being required on higher orders for military transports to the inner of the Empire. Our railway officials at Eydtkuhnen have, however, been informed that this alteration is only transitory, and is not intended to interfere particularly with commerce. The latter is, by the way, larger than has seldom occurred before, which is proved by the fact, for example, that the receipts for goods conveyance here amounted yesterday to more than 60,000 marks. It is said that the first transport of goods at the raised freight tarif arrived yesterday.

No. 360.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 703.)
Vienna, October 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday evening two telegrams from your Lordship, one of which stated that Servia had declared her readiness to accept an armistice if offered in a regular form, and the other instructing me to urge on Count Andrassy the importance of the Servian Government being induced to accept the armistice now offered by the Porte.

In order, therefore, to carry out your Lordship's wishes with the least possible delay, I addressed to his Excellency the letter, of which the inclosure is a copy, stating that your Lordship's reports from Belgrade having given reason to fear that the Servian Government may raise difficulties as to the form in which the armistice will be offered to them, you had instructed me to urge upon him the importance of their being induced to accept the armistice in the terms in which it will be proposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Vienna, October 11, 1876.

Dear Count Andrassy,

I HAVE just received a telegram from Lord Derby, stating that his reports from Belgrade give reason to fear that the Servian Government may raise difficulties as to the form in which the armistice will be offered to them by the Porte, and that he has therefore pressed upon Count Beust and upon Count Schouvaloff the urgency of Servia accepting the armistice in the terms in which it will be proposed to her; and he has also instructed me to urge upon your Excellency the importance which he attaches to her doing so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 361.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 100.)
Copenhagen, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

THIS day's number of the "Dagblad" contains rather an interesting article upon the present phase of the Eastern question, the contents of which are not, perhaps, unworthy of your Lordship's attention.

Its writer is of opinion that there have long existed two opposing currents in German, or, rather, Prussian foreign policy, one directed by the personal influence of the Emperor and Court party, the other by Prince Bismarck, the former of which at times carries all before it, but is eventually turned and made use of by the Prince's patient sagacity.

As an exemplification of this theory, General Manteuffel's late mission to Warsaw is cited as arising from the Emperor's warm sympathy and affection for his Imperial nephew, and it is supposed from this well-known fact that something more than "friendly neutrality" was then promised, in case the present complications in the East should eventually lead to the armed intervention of Russia in aid of the revolted Turkish provinces. Such a step, it is asserted, would be certainly adverse to the real sympathies and true interests of the German people at large, as advocated and hitherto invariably sustained by the German Chancellor, whose great merit consists in personating those sympathies which are always found to be in accordance with a nation's best interests.

These are, at the present moment, in unison amongst the German race, which, after the decisive struggle of 1866 for the direction and guidance of German power in the world's history, cannot fail to act together in a question so nearly touching that dominion in central Europe, which, by their successes in 1870, seems naturally to have devolved upon them.

How, it is asked, can Germany give way to the great Slav family as now represented by Russia, when that Power is bent on obtaining the mastery over the mouths of the Danube, with the eventual occupation of Constantinople and the whole, as a natural consequence thereof, of European Turkey?

Besides this, it is not to be supposed that the Hungarian element in the Austrian Empire would ever allow their Government to go hand-in-hand with Russia in securing such advantages to their Slav rivals as is supposed to have been attained by the late secret mission of General Soumarokow to the Emperor of Austria, and which has been commented on by all the European newspapers.

That no such agreement does, in reality, exist, is, it is thought, amply proved by the tone of the leading Russian journals, which, for some time past, has been unusually hostile to the Austrian policy.

The Germans are undoubtedly grateful to the Russian Government for its conduct in the last war with France, but it is hardly to be believed that they would in return sacrifice their best interests to favour the ambitious designs of the Colossus of the North.

There is much truth in these remarks, which are the more striking from their being contained in a journal hitherto remarkable for its Russian tendencies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.

No. 362.

Mr. Lumley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 104.) *Brussels, October 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

HAVING observed in the "Daily Telegraph" of yesterday's date a report from the correspondent of that paper at Brussels that 292 cannon ordered by the Turkish Government from the celebrated manufactory of Krupp had been detained at Antwerp at the request of a creditor of the Turkish Government, I asked the Turkish Minister, whom I met last night on my return to Brussels, whether there was any truth in that statement.

M. Karatheodory said that on seeing the report in the "Times" he had at once telegraphed to that journal that it was without foundation.

Some of the papers asserted that the creditor in question was M. Krupp himself, but they were not aware that the value of the guns ordered had been deposited at Berlin before M. Krupp would undertake the order, he receiving payment as fast as the guns were furnished.

The circumstances that had given rise to the report was a dispute that had arisen between two shipping agents at Antwerp. Having had cause to be dissatisfied with the German agent employed by M. Krupp at Antwerp, M. Karatheodory had employed another agent whose charges were much more moderate, and in whom he could place greater confidence.

He accordingly requested M. Krupp no longer to send any guns destined for the Turkish Government to the German agent, but to consign them to the agent he had selected for that purpose. Notwithstanding this instruction, however, M. Krupp forwarded a consignment of forty guns of various calibre to the German agent at Antwerp without giving any notice of the same to the Turkish Minister.

The agent of the Turkish Legation having seen a number of large cases containing guns lying on the quay at Antwerp, and having reason to believe that they were those ordered by the Turkish Government, caused an embargo to be laid upon them, and a correspondence ensued between the Turkish Legation and M. Krupp, from which it appeared that M. Krupp's excuse for acting contrary to his instructions was that a portion of the freight of a former consignment of guns sent to Constantinople was still due to the German agent.

This, as M. Karathéodory replied, was a subject for representations at Constantinople, and pending those explanations, the guns would remain at Antwerp, but under no consideration could he allow the German agent to have anything to do with their transmission to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 363.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 367.) *Rome, October 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions I said to-day to Signor Melegari that it was important that the Italian Government should urge Servia to accept the armistice now offered by the Porte.

His Excellency replied that he had done his best to induce Servia to accept the armistice as it had been proposed by England, in case the Porte agreed to it; but that the Porte, instead of consenting to that proposal, had again rejoined by a counter-proposition, which appeared to him to change the aspect of affairs. He conceived that an armistice of five months would be only favorable to Turkey, and that it would be the ruin of Servia and Montenegro. How were these two States to maintain themselves prepared for war during the whole winter? He could not help feeling that, in proposing an armistice of five months, the Porte was laughing at us, and unless a further acquaintance with its terms modified his opinion, he could certainly not counsel Servia to accept it. He said this, however, with the reserve that Italy had no intention of pursuing an isolated policy, and that if the other Powers did not take his view of the matter, he should be willing to waive his opinion for the sake of united action.

I asked his Excellency whether the views which he had expressed were shared by Russia, and he replied that he was unacquainted with the views of Russia upon the subject. I said they were certainly not those of Her Majesty's Government, for he could not suppose

that your Lordship would desire Servia to submit to an armistice which did not possess the elements of equality for the belligerents. I added that Sir Henry Elliot had mentioned in a telegram, which had been communicated to me, that he thought that the Guaranteeing Powers would be invited to make all the arrangements for the execution of the armistice. His Excellency replied that if this were so, it would certainly materially improve the aspect of the communication of the Porte, but he must wait and see what this communication actually was before sending advice to Servia on the subject. I urged, that after we had striven in an united manner to obtain the armistice it would be a singular thing to reject it because the term of it was longer than we expected, and that I could not help feeling that the beginning of the armistice was the important point; that we might fairly hope that its conclusion would not be followed by a renewal of the war; and that certainly at the expiration of five months we might be sure that it would be impossible for the simple struggle between Servia and the Porte to recommence, that therefore Servia might enter upon such an armistice with the assurance of its either leading to a peace or to a war on a different footing, for public opinion would not permit Turkey to resume the offensive in the spring after a winter of fruitless negotiation. That, therefore, if we accepted the armistice now proposed, we might hope for the continued union of the Powers at its close; but that if some Powers now rejected it, we should at once find ourselves in the face of a disagreement which would strengthen the resistance of the Porte.

His Excellency said, however, that he could do nothing until he knew exactly what Turkey proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 364.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 1.) *Galatz, October 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the reserves of the Roumanian army in this district are being called up, and I understand that a concentration of troops at some point not far from the town of Galatz is contemplated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 365.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram is from Monson:—

"I am informed that the war (party) is straining every nerve to persuade Prince Nicholas to reject armistice, and I am fearful that he is already much less pacific.

"Austrian Agent has received no instructions in answer to telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs."

No. 366.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 10·15 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following figures to Monson:—

"(Confidential.)

"Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to me to-day, for Lord Derby's information, that he maintains his intention to accept the armistice as proposed by the Porte, and that his Agents at Belgrade and Cettigné are instructed to support it.

"Prince of Montenegro will make a great mistake if he becomes a party to a Servian attempt to thwart the policy of Great Britain and Austria."

No. 367.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

Vienna, October 15, 1876, *midnight.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Monson's telegram, forwarded this evening, I sent him, on receiving your Lordship's telegram to-day, the following figures:—

"(Confidential.)

"From a telegram received this evening, it appears that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is willing to follow the example of England, Austria, Germany, and France in accepting the armistice, and has named officers to act for Italy in carrying out its military details, but that his Excellency proposes to acquaint the Governments with his objections to it. As all possible objections to armistice had doubtless been duly weighed (by?) Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers when they decided to accept it, they are not likely now to reconsider that decision."

No. 368.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16, 12·50 P.M.)

Belgrade, October 16, 1876, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HEAR that Servian authorities give out to the correspondents as their intention to acquaint the Powers with a determination to meet proposal of armistice with counter-project, if not with refusal.

It is believed that if the Powers have agreed with Russian Government to recommend this or another proposition as the final answer to the Servian application for their good offices, such a reply should be conveyed under identical instructions leaving Prince Milan no shadow of a doubt.

No. 369.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16, 2·30 P.M.)

Paris, October 16, 1876, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

DUC DECAZES asks me to inform your Lordship in his opinion it would be good policy to make some concession to Russia with regard to duration of armistice.

No. 370.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

Vienna, October 16, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AS there was a propability of Count Andrassy leaving this morning for Pesth, I wrote to him last night acquainting him with the intention of the Italian Government to follow the example of England and Austria, &c. I have also seen him to-day when he said that he told the Russian Ambassador yesterday that he could see no reason for Austria declining the Turkish proposal, and that so far from its being prejudicial, the commercial classes here are most anxious that it should be accepted. I prepared him for a statement of the reasons of the Italian Government for considering a long armistice likely to cause complications in Principalities; he said that they could not influence his decision. He is not, however, confident as to the effect which Russian opposition may have at Berlin, from whence he can obtain no satisfactory assurance. I therefore repeated to him that your Lordship considered Germany had given her support to the Turkish proposal.

Instructions were sent yesterday to Belgrade and Montenegro urging the acceptance of the armistice by the Princes.

No. 371.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

Copenhagen, October 16, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM assured at the Foreign Office here that the late proposal of the Russian Government to that of Austria for the joint military occupation of Bulgaria and Herzegovina was strongly supported by Prince Bismarck's Agent at Vienna, and they have every reason to suppose that the same support will have to be given to Russian projects there.

I report this fact on the chance that your Lordship may not be acquainted with it.

No. 372.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

EXPRESS satisfaction at attention paid to representations of Her Majesty's Government, and trust Italian Government will continue to urge upon Servia and Montenegro not to oppose proposals made in the interest of peace.

No. 373.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

INSTRUCTION to Sir H. Elliot of 5th instant was not communicated to any Power by Her Majesty's Government except to Germany, and intelligence of it must have reached Livadia and Rome from Constantinople after Sir H. Elliot had acted on it.

As there seems some confusion about the threatened withdrawal from Constantinople of Sir H. Elliot in the event of a refusal by the Porte to grant an armistice, it may be well to explain that no rupture of relations was contemplated.

It was thought better in that event that Sir H. Elliot should retire for a time, and take no part in the negotiation, but the Secretary of Embassy would have remained. The step was intended to show displeasure on the part of England, but it would not have been a diplomatic rupture.

Her Majesty's Government are most anxious to act with the Government of Germany, and in the present situation of affairs that Government could do much in the interest of peace if Germany would exert its influence to procure Russian acceptance of the armistice. I should be glad to know, since Prince Bismarck seems to object to a Conference, what other plan for procuring an agreement among the Powers he would consider favourable.

No. 374.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received October* 16.)

Belgrade, October 16, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

EMPEROR ALEXANDER has telegraphed that his Consul should not take any steps with a view to armistice here until Porte agrees to original proposal of one for six weeks.

All my colleagues agree with me that an attempt to recommend acceptance by Prince Milan would be perfectly useless, and that the Agent doing this would only weaken his influence and place himself at a disadvantage.

I shall, therefore, preserve great reserve, and abstain from isolated action.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 375.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has communicated to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated Livadia, October 14, of which the following is a translation :—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace, which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged. Lastly, we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and pointed out to him that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month."

No. 376.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th instant, you may tell Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government accepted the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice, and expressed hopes that it would be generally accepted by the other Powers.

You will have seen from my telegram of the 13th instant that Count Beust read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating his explicit acceptance of the five months' armistice.

No. 377.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

IN reply to your telegram of the 13th, you may tell Count Andrassy that Count Schouvaloff made no such personal suggestion as you mention respecting Russia reserving liberty of intervention, though something was said by him on the subject in the course of conversation.

You may also inform him of my language to Count Schouvaloff, as stated in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant.

No. 378.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 16, 1876.

PRINCE BISMARCK has sent General Schweinitz to the Emperor at Baden to take His Majesty's commands before returning to his post at St. Petersburgh.

No. 379.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

YOU may inform Prince Bismarck confidentially of my language to Count Schouvaloff, reported in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 380.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 97.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing him of the protests which have been made to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires against the practice of the Porte of sending Circassian Colonists into Thessaly, and asking for the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in remonstrating with the Turkish Government.*

You will inform the Greek Government that Her Majesty's Government have been using their good offices at Constantinople for some time past in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 381.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 646.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1081 of the 29th ultimo, and I approve the note which you addressed to Safvet Pasha on the 28th ultimo, with a view to induce the Porte to accept the peace proposals of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 382.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 647.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to your No. 1085 of the 30th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Grand Vizier respecting the inexpediency of the Porte referring to the Grand Council the proposals for peace of Her Majesty's Government instead of allowing a decision to be given by the Sultan's Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 383.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 648.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to your Excellency's No. 1092, of the 2nd instant, Her Majesty's Government approve the remonstrance which you made to the Porte upon the dilatoriness shown by them in providing for the safety of the people in Bulgaria and in punishing those who have been the causes of the present suffering.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Nos. 386 and 88.

No. 384.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 649.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

Sir,

I APPROVE the note which your Excellency addressed to the Porte on the 27th ultimo, urging acceptance of the peace proposals of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of which is inclosed in your No 1077 of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 385.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 498.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me two despatches from his Government explaining their position and views with regard to the proposal made by the Porte for an armistice of five months' duration.

The Italian Government state that they have not yet taken a decision in regard to this proposal, because at first sight it seems to them that the answer of the Porte does not fully meet the requirements of the Powers. Six weeks or two months ought, in their opinion, to suffice for arriving at a settlement of all the leading points in dispute, and they think that the Porte should be required to make an arrangement within that time which should admit of the signature of a definitive peace. Otherwise the Italian Government cannot help feeling that there will be great danger of fresh difficulties arising during the course of so long an armistice, while peace still remains uncertain.

Italy, it is said, would willingly take any step that is likely to lead to peace, but as Russia objects to the proposal under consideration, and Germany hesitates to give her consent, Signor Melegari thinks that the acceptance of it by other Powers would only lead to further complications.

Signor Melegari believes that the best arrangement to avoid the present difficulty would be a compromise between the Russian proposal and that of Turkey. If the other Powers were to support Turkey without attempting such a compromise, they would, in fact, be driving Russia to revert to the plan she had already advocated of a military occupation of Turkish territory.

The Italian Government, by way of showing their desire for peace, had already designated Commissioners to assist in fixing the conditions of the armistice, and they had also telegraphed to the Italian Agent at Belgrade stating that, as other Powers appeared disposed to accept the counter-proposals of Turkey, notwithstanding the contrary opinion of Russia, he was to advise the Servian Government not to impede the benevolent intentions of Europe by an absolute refusal.

General Menabrea added that he was instructed to deny in the most solemn manner that Italy had any desire for war, or for fresh territorial acquisitions. What she desired was peace, and the opportunity of restoring her finances.

His Excellency asked whether I could hold out no hope of a compromise.

I said that it was as yet too early to decide what course could be taken. We must wait to see on what grounds the Russian Government based their objections to the Turkish proposal.

But I could not conceal from him that the aspect of affairs seemed to me extremely unsatisfactory. We had had great trouble in inducing the Porte to grant an armistice for a fixed term, as now proposed, and there was something very suspicious in the manner in which fresh difficulties were created at each turn of the negotiations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 386.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 516 A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow dated Livadia, October 14, of which the following is a translation :—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged; lastly we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe already intolerable would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and I pointed out to his Excellency that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month."

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 387.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 517.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government having experienced much inconvenience from being without direct means of communication with Prince Gortchakow through Her Majesty's Embassy, I have to inform your Excellency that they consider it desirable that you should yourself proceed to Livadia, should you be able to manage this.

You will accordingly inform me whether your journey thither can be arranged, and whether your presence would be agreeable to His Imperial Majesty.

In the event of your proceeding to Livadia, I authorize you to take with you a second Secretary.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 388.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 655.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE learnt with satisfaction from your Excellency's despatch No. 441 of the 10th instant, marked "Secret," that Herr von Bülow had expressed his gratification at your having been directed to communicate to him the telegraphic instructions which were sent to Sir H. Elliot on the 5th instant, by which he was ordered, if the Porte should formally refuse to accept the terms of peace proposed by the Powers, or to grant an armistice for not less than a month, to leave Constantinople.

There appears to have been an impression at Berlin, previously to your communication of these instructions, that they had been made known to other Powers, but had been kept back from Germany. This idea is entirely incorrect; if the nature of the instructions was known at Livadia and Rome, it must have been telegraphed from Constantinople by the Russian and Italian representatives, after Sir Henry Elliot had acted on them; the only Government to which they were formally communicated by Her Majesty's Government was that of Germany.

There seems to have existed, and still to exist, a certain confusion of ideas as to the threatened withdrawal of Sir Henry Elliot under certain contingencies, which it is desirable to remove. I think, therefore, that it may be well to explain that no rupture of relations with the Porte was ever contemplated. It was thought to be advisable that, if the Porte should definitively refuse both the terms of peace and the armistice, the Ambassador should leave Constantinople for a time, but the Embassy would have remained under the direction of the First Secretary. The object of the withdrawal of the

Ambassador would have been to show displeasure on the part of England, but there would have been no diplomatic rupture. I should wish your Excellency to take an opportunity of speaking in this sense to Herr von Bülow, in order to remove any misapprehension on the part of the German Government as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in taking this step.

It is the earnest wish of Her Majesty's Government to act, during the negotiations, in concert with the German Government, which could, in the present situation of affairs, if it would exert its influence to procure the acceptance by Russia of the armistice, do much in the interest of peace. The acceptance of the armistice would be the first step in the direction of a permanent pacification, and the next step would, in our opinion, be the assembly of a Conference.

I gather, however, from your remarks, that Prince Bismarck does not appear to entertain favourably the idea of a Conference; in that case he has probably some alternative plan in view, the nature of which it would be advisable that we should know. I should, therefore, wish you to endeavour to ascertain what course would, in the opinion of the Prince, be best suited to secure a general agreement among the Powers, if the plan of a Conference is rejected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 389.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 658.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate, confidentially, to Prince Bismarck the language which I used to Count Schouvaloff in my interview with him of the 14th instant, recorded in my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, copy of which was inclosed to you in my No. 653 of that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 390.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 443.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

Sir,

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram of the 14th instant that Baron Orczy had expressed some doubts as to whether Count Andrassy would, in the face of the opposition of Russia, persist in his acceptance of the armistice for six months proposed by the Porte. It seems, further, that he said that Count Andrassy had not expressed any opinion as to the duration of the armistice; and that he informed you that Count Beust had been merely instructed to express in general terms a favourable opinion of the Turkish proposal and the reasons by which it was supported, as Count Andrassy was waiting to know the decision of Her Majesty's Government before taking his own decision as to the entire acceptance of the proposal.

As Baron Orczy's language, as reported by your Excellency, seems to show that some doubt existed in the mind of Count Andrassy as to the decision of Her Majesty's Government, I have directed you to-day, by telegraph, to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government at once accepted the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, and expressed the hope that it would be generally accepted by the other Powers.

As regards the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government, you will have learnt from my despatch No. 432 of the 13th instant, that Count Beust, on that day, read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that Austria-Hungary accepted the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice and would do all in its power to procure its acceptance by other States, as well as by Servia and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 391.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 444.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency reported in your telegram of yesterday that Count Andrassy had stated to you that he had learnt from Count Beust that Count Schouvaloff had made a personal suggestion to me to the effect that, if Russia should accept the Turkish proposal for an armistice of six months, her acceptance should not deprive her of her own liberty, if she should see cause to intervene before the expiration of the six months.

I should wish you to tell Count Andrassy that Count Schouvaloff has made no personal suggestion to me of this nature, though, in the course of conversation, something was said by him on the subject.

In order that Count Andrassy may understand exactly what passed between me and Count Schouvaloff, it would be advisable that you should communicate to him the substance of our conversation, recorded in my despatch to Lord A. Loftus, copy of which was inclosed in my No. 440 of the 14th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 392.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1876, 9 P.M.

AS it is very inconvenient for Her Majesty's Government to be without means of communicating directly through Her Majesty's Embassy with Prince Gortchakow, it would be desirable that you should go to Livadia if you could arrange to do so. Let me know if this would be agreeable to the Emperor and can be done.

You would be at liberty to take a Second Secretary with you.

No. 393.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 16, 1876, 7·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING figures are from Monson:—

"Austrian Agent tells me that the Prince this morning assured him that he would raise no unreasonable objections to armistice, but he must reserve his definite answer till he had the written conditions, and had consulted Servia.

"I hope to have an audience this afternoon."

No. 394.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1101.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE often of late expressed to your Lordship the anxiety that I felt respecting the effect which might be produced by the manner in which the expulsion of the Turks from Europe or the creation of Bulgarian autonomy has been spoken of in England.

The following extract of a private letter from a gentleman settled in Bulgaria, who for the last eight or ten years has been carrying on extensive farming operations, will show your Lordship what the feeling on the subject is of the persons most interested in it.

The letter is addressed to the writer's brother, and speaks of the acts of violence committed by the Circassians, but it adds: "Luckily the Turks have not got wind of Gortchakow's and Gladstone's idea of Bulgarian autonomy, otherwise I do not suppose I should be here to tell you this.

"The Bulgarians would be the first to deprecate such a step at the present moment, which have the effect of clearing them at least out of the country.

"If you happen to know there will be anything approaching to a Bulgarian autonomy, just let me be informed of it by telegraph, because I would infinitely prefer to be out of the way when the question is to be decided."

The writer does not, I am convinced, exaggerate the danger which may be at hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 395.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1103.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 4, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. Baring's report upon the atrocities committed in Bulgaria, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy which bears upon the origin of the rising in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 395.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.)

I SEE Mr. Baring mentions the outbreak at Eski Zaghra last year as a "slight disturbance." The fact is that last October everything was settled for a "rising" in Bulgaria, eight or ten places simultaneously. Something occurred which made it advisable that the rising should be put off, and messengers were sent to all the centres, but the put-off for Eski Zaghra arrived twenty-four hours late, and that town rose in the full conviction that it was being seconded by all the force of the insurgents. In fact, the *émeute*, revolt, rebellion, revolution, or whatever it was, of May last, was to have come off in October 1875, but did not.

I do not suppose the Turks managed to get this piece of information out of the prisoners then arrested; if they had, they ought to have prevented the affairs of May last. I only knew it in May, and besides, it is out of my Consular district.

No. 396.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1105.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 5, 1876.*

I WAS received this morning at the Palace of Dolmabaghtche by the Sultan, and had the honour to deliver into his Majesty's hand the Queen's letter accrediting me as Her Ambassador.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the words which I addressed to His Majesty on this occasion, and also of His Majesty's gracious reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 396.

Sir H. Elliot's Address to His Majesty the Sultan.

Sire,

J'AI l'honneur de remettre entre les mains de votre Majesté Impériale la lettre par laquelle la Reine ma très-gracieuse Souveraine m'accrédite auprès de votre Majesté en qualité de son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire.

En exprimant de la part de la Reine ses félicitations à votre Majesté sur son avénement au Trône qu'elle est appelée à occuper, j'ose émettre l'espoir que sous la direction éclairée de votre Majesté les anciens liens d'amitié et de sympathie qui ont toujours existé entre les deux nations, se resserreront encore davantage.

En usant de tous mes efforts pour maintenir ces liens, je remplirai le mieux les fonctions qui m'ont été confiées par ma très-gracieuse Souveraine.

Inclosure 2 in No. 396.

Reply of His Majesty the Sultan to Sir H. Elliot's Address.

(Traduction.)

JE suis très sensible aux félicitations que M. l'Ambassadeur vient de m'exprimer au nom de Sa Majesté la Reine, à l'occasion de mon avénement au Trône. J'attache un grand prix à l'amitié du Gouvernement Britannique, et à la sympathie du peuple Anglais; de même que le Gouvernement Anglais avait donné de nombreuses preuves de son amitié envers la Turquie du temps de mon glorieux père à une époque de difficulté extrême, j'espère fermement que cette amitié ne me fera pas défaut pendant mon règne. Mon unique but est de voir resserrer de plus en plus les liens d'amitié intime qui existent entre les deux pays.

Je connais, M. l'Ambassadeur, vos sentiments personnels d'amitié pour la Turquie, et je suis heureux de vous voir confirmé dans votre poste.

No. 397.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1106. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, and to the reply which the Sultan made to my address to him on the occasion of my audience to-day, I think it right to mention to your Lordship that the sentence, "De même que le Gouvernement Anglais avait donné de nombreuses preuves de son amitié envers la Turquie du temps de mon glorieux père, à une époque de difficulté extrême," was not a correct rendering of what His Majesty said, the actual words being, "De même que le Gouvernement Anglais avait donné de nombreuses preuves de son amitié envers la Turquie du temps de mon glorieux père, notamment à l'époque de la guerre de Crimée."

The Minister for Foreign Affairs wishing, however, to avoid any allusion to a subject which might wound the susceptibilities of a friendly Power, begged that the altered version of the answer might be regarded as the official one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 398.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1107.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the United States' Minister at this Court, respecting the journey of Mr. Schuyler to Bulgaria, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 398.

Mr. Maynard to Sir H. Elliot.

Dear Sir, *United States' Legation, Constantinople, September 30, 1876.*

I INCLOSE a note this moment received from Mr. Schuyler, regretting the two-fold misapprehension which appears in your despatch to the Earl of Derby, published in the London "Daily Telegraph" of the 20th, and reproduced in both the English and French Department of the "Levant Herald" this evening: first, that he went into Bulgaria as an attendant upon, if not attaché to "several newspaper correspondents;" and secondly, that he was forced to depend upon an unreliable interpreter, or, as it is expressed, "at the mercy of the Bulgarian, &c."

Before Mr. Schuyler left Constantinople, I procured from the Porte, for himself, secretary and dragoman, a firman to go into the districts of Adrianople, Philippopoli, and Sophia. At the time I knew nothing of the newspaper correspondents.

I learn from Mr. Schuyler, it may be proper to add, that he understands the Bulgarian language sufficiently to comprehend conversation in it.

In my note accompanying his letter I intimated that his character for integrity made it impossible that he could consciously mislead; his character for sagacity forbids me to believe that he can have been misled.

I cheerfully comply with his request to bring this subject to your notice, so that he may be relieved from the embarrassment occasioned by an evident misunderstanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE MAYNARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 398.

Mr. Schuyler to Mr. Maynard.

Consulate-General of the United States of America, Constantinople, September 30, 1876.

My dear Mr. Maynard,

SIR HENRY ELLIOT, in his despatch of September 5, inclosing Mr. Baring's Report, printed in the Supplement to the "London Gazette" of September 19, has been led into a misrepresentation with regard to my journey into Bulgaria. I had supposed that, after a conversation which I had with Sir Henry on the 2nd of September, he understood the actual circumstances of my journey, and regret to find that he did not.

Sir Henry says that I "accompanied several newspaper correspondents." On the contrary, for a portion of my journey two newspaper correspondents accompanied me. Mr. McGahan, an old personal friend of mine, now writing for the "Daily News," was on his way to the seat of war, and I gladly invited him to go with me. At Philippopolis I met Dr. Schneider, the correspondent of the "Cologne Gazette," a gentleman personally known to Sir H. Elliot. As Dr. Schneider was looking in vain for an interpreter, and as I saw no reason for conducting my inquiries secretly, I was glad to have him join my party. I may say, at the same time, that I was glad to have the benefit of two independent and impartial observers.

As to the statement that none of the party understood Turkish, and that we were, therefore, at the mercy of a Bulgarian interpreter, I desire to say that besides the Bulgarian to whom he refers, who is an upright and conscientious gentleman, speaking Turkish as well as Bulgarian, and who was most highly recommended to me, I had always one and usually two other interpreters—one Greek and the other Armenian—who spoke Turkish with the fluency of natives.

I shall be greatly obliged to you if you will call Sir Henry's attention to his statements, which may mislead, and ask him to correct them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EUGENE SCHUYLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 398.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Maynard.

Therapia, October 4, 1876.

Dear Mr. Maynard,

YOUR letter of September 30 only reached me last night, and I hasten to assure you that nothing could be further from my intention than to make any insinuation against the manner in which Mr. Schuyler conducted his inquiry.

I will at once forward to Lord Derby a copy of his letter to you, in which he explains that he did not accompany the newspaper correspondents, but that those gentlemen accompanied him.

You have rather mistaken what I said about his interpreter, as I made no mention of his being accompanied by an "unreliable" person in that character; but, when you have been as long in this country as I have, you will know to how great an extent we are at the mercy of those who interpret for us when we do not know their language. An interpreter, whether Turk or Bulgarian, is certain to have strong sympathies on one side or the other, and whether in putting questions or in rendering the answers, a great deal depends upon his sympathies and feelings, without there being on his part any deliberate intention of misleading.

I certainly was not aware that Mr. Schuyler, who had only just arrived in this country, was, as you tell me, acquainted with the Bulgarian language, and if I had been, I should

not have spoken of him as being at the mercy of his interpreter, which is undoubtedly the case with those who do not understand the language in which the conversation is carried on.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 399.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1114.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

THE difficulties which lie in the way of conclusion of peace appear, in a very slight degree, to depend upon the conditions to be agreed upon between the Porte and the Principalities.

The preliminaries at least might probably be at once signed upon the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government, if it is possible to separate the question of peace with the Principalities from that of the organization to be given to the insurgent provinces.

By keeping them united it appears to me that there must be inevitably great delay before peace can be established, for whether the understandings that will have to be come to by the Powers is to be arrived at by communications between the Cabinets or by means of a Conference, in either case much delay must ensue, while the armies must be maintained during a precarious armistice.

I have, &c,
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 400.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1117.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

I HAVE informed your Lordship by telegraph that at a private audience of the Sultan I executed the instructions contained in your despatch No. 372 of the 21st of September, in respect to the measures which Her Majesty's Government expect to be taken for the relief of the suffering Bulgarians, and for the punishment of the persons chiefly implicated in the cruelties perpetrated upon them.

I commenced by observing that His Majesty at my official audience had alluded to the friendship which had long subsisted between the two countries, and as recent circumstances had worked a great change in the sentiments prevailing in England, I begged him to allow me to speak with perfect freedom, even if in doing so I should be obliged to say much that it would be painful for him to hear.

The Sultan answered that he could never forget the services rendered by Great Britain to this Empire in the time of his father during the Crimean War, and at other times, and that Turkey was under a debt of gratitude to England which she had done little to repay; and he still hoped to be able to look to her for support.

His Majesty begged me to speak to him with perfect freedom.

In order that His Majesty might completely understand the communication I had to make to him, I had previously embodied your Lordship's instruction in a Memorandum, which had been put into Safvet Pasha's hands.

The Sultan, consequently, appeared aware of what I had to say, and when I had spoken as instructed, he did not hesitate to give every assurance that the measures called for by your Lordship, both for the relief of the distress and for the punishment of the guilty, should be carried out.

Among the names of those who appeared to be most implicated, I did not include that of Hafiz Pasha, respecting whose conduct information which I had latterly received made me feel some doubt.

To Chefket Pasha I made particular allusion, and I told His Majesty that it was the impunity extended to him, and others who had acted similarly, that had roused the especial indignation of Europe, which justly considered that the Porte had assumed the responsibility of acts which it ought to have been the first to denounce and to punish.

The Sultan said that he would never tolerate acts such as had been described, and I would leave with his Minister the names of those whose conduct was most blameable. He would see that the charges against them should be strictly investigated.

He had, he said, that morning received information from the Commissioners at Philippopoli that proceedings were already commenced against two of those most implicated. His Majesty did not name them, but from a telegram from Mr. Baring, I find them to be the notorious Achmet Aga and Tossoun Bey.

I spoke to the Sultan in favour of the persons who deserved credit and reward for protecting their Christian fellow-subjects from the Bashi-Bazouks, and he said it would give him the greatest satisfaction to show them his appreciation of their conduct.

I have given Safvet Pasha the names both of those whose conduct requires strict investigation and of those who exerted themselves on the side of humanity, the list being formed from the Reports of Mr. Baring and of Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, and from such other information as I have been able to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 401.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1118. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

I NEVER had a more painful duty to perform than that which I was called upon to execute at my private audience of the Sultan.

At a first interview with a Sovereign who had just ascended his Throne under circumstances of overwhelming difficulty, I had to make him understand that the recent acts of the Government of his predecessors had been such as to call down the reprobation and horror of all Europe, and had cost this Empire the sympathy and prospect of support of the one country which had hitherto always been the friend of Turkey.

Nor was this all. When the Sultan spoke of the non-execution of reforms formerly promised, and of his own determination that they should not only be carried out, but added to, it became necessary to make him see that there was no longer a disposition to put faith in the engagements taken by the Porte.

The Sultan evidently felt keenly the distrust with which he is regarded, and which he considers he has done nothing to merit.

I understand that he sometimes says to those about him: "Let the European Powers give me time to carry out the measures upon which I am determined, and if at the end of a fixed period I should be found not to have done so, I shall be ready to submit to their dictation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 402.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1119. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

I TOOK the opportunity of my audience of the Sultan to urge strongly on His Majesty the importance of the acceptance by his Government of the conditions of peace proposed by your Lordship and of the immediate conclusion of an armistice.

His Majesty spoke of the relations which had always subsisted between Turkey and Great Britain, whose interests he regarded as common, but said that the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government were more like those which he would have expected to see put forward by that of Russia, whose views were very different.

I pointed out that it had been necessary for your Lordship to get the concurrence of all the other Powers to propositions that were to be supported by them, and that if you had perhaps been obliged to include in them conditions which you may not have thought indispensable, you had, on the other side, been able to prevent more onerous demands from being made.

Her Majesty's Government continued to take a deep interest in the welfare of this country, and were so thoroughly convinced that the acceptation of the proposed conditions and the immediate conclusion of an armistice were matters of vital importance, that, in

the event of their rejection by the Porte, they had directed me to leave Constantinople, as all further efforts on their part to avert the ruin which they saw impending would be useless.

The Sultan said he would deeply deplore such a determination, but that he could say nothing positive in reference to the armistice, as the subject was at that time under the consideration of his Ministers assembled in Council.

All that he could assure me was that he was anxious to see the re-establishment of peace at the earliest possible period, and that he would promote that end to the utmost of his power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 403.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1122.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1876.*

WHEN an armistice is talked of the Turkish Ministers inquire what security there will be of its observance by the Servians, who, as they say, and as is proved by Sir Arnold Kemball's Reports, scarcely made a semblance of regarding the recent suspension of hostilities.

From the language of Safvet Pasha, I judge that if there is to be an armistice the Porte would wish everything connected with it to be arranged by officers appointed by the mediating Powers, who should also see that the positions from which the Turkish troops withdrew are not occupied by the Servians.

The Turkish Ministers also feel strongly that during an armistice a stop should be put to the influx of foreign auxiliaries, which, if it were to continue, would form a formidable army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 404.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1125.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch which I have just received from the British Vice-Consul at Kustendje, calling attention to the fanatical disposition of the Musulmans in that district, and to the apprehensions of the English residents there; and expressing a hope that a gun-boat may be stationed there for their protection.

I have informed Colonel Sankey that, under the Treaties, we have no right to have a ship at Kustendje; but that I shall represent to the Porte the condition of affairs there, and shall bear in mind the position of the English residents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 404.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Kustendje, October 7, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice that in the present excitable state of the Musulman population a feeling of great uneasiness prevails among the English residents in this district.

There are at present here seventy-four English, besides a few other British subjects, and a large capital is represented in the railway.

The Musulmans have of late shown a bad feeling towards the Christians of all denominations, and on every slight quarrel have used threatening language, and these expressions are becoming more frequent. I, myself, have observed an entire change in the manner of the better classes towards Europeans.

We are here surrounded by Turkish, Tartar, and Circassian villages, and in any emergency are quite unprotected. In the present state of feeling, with the strangest rumours afloat and fully believed in by the ignorant people, any paltry quarrel may lead to bloodshed, particularly during the approaching Bairam. And the English have requested me to bring this state of affairs to your Excellency in the hopes that a gun-boat may be stationed here for their protection until affairs become more settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

No. 405.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (Received October 17.)

(No. 1126.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

IN forwarding the accompanying despatch from Mr. Baring, respecting the conflicting accounts of the loss of life at Batak, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have called the attention of the Porte to his statement, that the inquiry made by the Commission on this point has not been satisfactory, and that I have supported his suggestion for a further examination of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 405.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopolis, October 5, 1867.

Sir,

BEFORE leaving Tatar-Bazardjik, I had some conversation with Mr. Clarke, respecting the number of persons who perished in the massacre at Batak.

In the general report I had the honour to address to your Excellency, I stated as my opinion that the killed amounted to about 5,000 out of a population of 6,500. The number of houses I put at 650.

Mr. Clarke declares my estimate to be far above the mark, and he founds his opinion on a list drawn up by a native of Batak, one Theodore, son of Pope Neelo, who perished in the massacre.

This young man's list gives the following figures:—

Kitten.

Men and boys	843
Married women..	201
Girls and female children..	756
	1,900

Javino.

Men and boys	708
Married women..	489
Girls and female children..	584
	1,781

The original population is therefore placed at 3,681, and the number of houses at 587.

Mr. Clarke tells me he has confidence in the honesty of the compiler of this estimate, and certainly, considering that his father was actually hacked to pieces by the Turks, he cannot be supposed to have any particular partiality for them.

Certain information which I have, however, received, and which I will report to your Excellency when I have been able to examine it more closely, leads me still to believe that my original estimate of the loss of life is, after all, the correct one.

No one will accuse Mr. Clarke of the slightest partiality, and his noble efforts to relieve the sufferings of the Bulgarians are proof of the kindly sentiments he entertains for them; he has not, however, himself made any inquiries into what took place at the time of the massacre; all he pretends to do is to repeat the statements of the villager I have mentioned above, and to add that, in his opinion, they are worthy of attention.

Theodore has been examined before the Commission, which trusts that his figures and the official statistics will prove my estimate to be erroneous.

I have also had some conversation will Ismail Bey on this subject. He admitted that 131 males had been discovered who had escaped official registration, which fact sufficiently proves that little importance can be attached to these registers.

Moreover, in the figures shown me, there were mistakes in simple addition, and those given me by Ismail Bey do not tally with those given me by Yovantcho Effendi.

Altogether the inquiry made by the Commission into the loss of life at Batak is not satisfactory, and it is to be hoped, for the sake of truth, that the question will be examined more attentively before the final report is issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 406.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1127.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

THE "Times" of the 2nd instant having published a letter from Mr. Archibald Forbes, the special correspondent of the "Daily News," inclosing a letter which he had addressed to the editor of the "Istok," or official gazette of Servia, in which he alludes to imaginary reports of Sir Arnold Kemball on the state of the Turkish army, I have thought it right to address to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade the despatch of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 406.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

THE "Times" of the 2nd instant publishes a letter from Mr. Archibald Forbes, the special correspondent of the "Daily News," inclosing a letter which he had addressed to the editor of the "Istok," or official gazette of Servia, and which contains the following paragraph:—

"As for the Turks, Sir A. Kemball, the British Commissioner at their head-quarters, charged to watch against their perpetration of atrocities, reports the Turkish army to be a disorganized rabble, suffering from the want of the commonest necessaries, and threatening to fall to pieces."

It may be right to inform you that the statement addressed to the "Istok" is entirely unfounded; Sir Arnold has, on the contrary, always spoken highly of the discipline, courage, and endurance of the Turkish troops, and has reported, hitherto, that their health has been remarkably good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 407.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 1128.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a further despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the military operations on the Morava.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, October 2, 1876.*

THE annexed telegrams* have already acquainted your Excellency with the course of events here since the date of my last despatch of the 25th ultimo.

* Substance sent to Foreign Office by telegraph.

The enemy's attacks on Thursday and Saturday (the 28th and 30th) were prosecuted with unusual resolution. From the prisoners, some ten in number, we learn that Horvatovich commanded the Servian forces. His right wing, which was opposed to the Turkish right rear, defended by the division of Adyl Pasha, being led by Teholak Antich; and his left wing, opposed to the division of Suleyman Pasha, and more directly to the brigade of Hafiz Pasha, being led by Strikovich. General Tchernaieff is said to have visited the ground the previous day on each occasion, but to have returned to Deligrad before the advance commenced.

Complete dependence must not, of course, be placed on the statements of prisoners, being private soldiers, whose knowledge is necessarily restricted to the movements of their respective battalions, but on a comparison of those movements it appeared to be certified that Teholak Antich, with four battalions* and twelve guns, had only joined General Tchernieff from Yavor three days before the fight of Thursday, and that a very considerable portion of the whole Servian force engaged on both days, comprising twenty-one battalions, consisted of reinforcements arrived since the conclusion of the so-called suspension of hostilities. The attacking force was supported by twenty guns, mostly of position, from batteries more or less constructed after the same date.

I have referred in telegram D to my inspection of the scene of the Servian attack of Thursday on the Turkish right rear. The necessity of verifying reports of the nationality of the slain in point of number imposed upon me this unpleasant duty. On the occasion in question, the enemy being the assailants, and being repulsed close up to the Turkish lines, necessarily abandoned their dead, and among these, unquestionably, there proved to be a large proportion of foreigners. In viewing the foremost bodies I could not avoid the reflection that the lives of brave men had been sacrificed to a misguided enthusiasm, and in a cause that certainly is not hallowed by the patriotism or even the sympathy of the rank and file whom they had undertaken to lead. Making allowance for the fears of prisoners, and a natural desire on their part to extenuate their enforced hostility, there can be little doubt, I think, whatever may be the feelings of their rulers, that the war is not popular with the peasants and rural inhabitants of Servia, whose interest in a contest which has pitted them against a soldiery, in courage, physique, and training incomparably their superiors, is feeble and half-hearted.

I may here mention that the ground over which the Servians made their attack on Thursday was the same precisely (distant four miles from the original Turkish position on these heights) as that on which they had themselves made their last stand in the battle of Friday, the 1st September. Then the combatants on both sides had ceased to be supported by their artillery respectively; now the superior *élan* of the Turks was effectually seconded by the well-sustained fire of their batteries on commanding positions.

The counter-demonstration made by the Turks in the plain between Alexinatz and the trestle bridge more than answered its purpose in recalling to their lines the four Servian battalions with twelve guns which had been pushed forward on the high road. The Turkish force, consisting of three battalions, six guns, and 1,000 horse, had reached the river, and were on the point of crossing it, with the certain prospect of seizing the Servian batteries in the plain, as well as the batteries covering Alexinatz, which (to judge from the feeble opposition offered) appeared to be denuded of their garrisons, when Ahmed Ayoub Pasha stopped the movement.

His motive for foregoing his advantage was the same as that alleged by him for abandoning the crest which had been wrested from the enemy on Saturday night, viz., deference to the orders of the Porte against assuming the offensive, though by his Generals it is attributed to the want of enterprize and excess of caution which have heretofore deprived him of the fruits of his victories.

In the false attack along the right bank of the Morava on Thursday, some Servian troops having incautiously passed over the stream were very severely handled by the Turkish detachments, consisting largely of cavalry, which had been posted under cover to watch them. I did not witness the engagement, which ensued at two points in front of our position, but I am credibly informed, the fact being verified by officers deputed from head-quarters for the purpose, that the number of Servians killed and abandoned on the ground exceeded 300.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL, *Major-General.*

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* Forming one complete brigade of the Servian army. There remained two complete brigades at Yavor.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, 9 A.M.

NIGHT affair as usual near trestle bridge, commenced by Servians before 2 A.M., and maintained on both sides with fire of infantry and frequent shells till past 3 A.M.; returns of killed and wounded, if any, later.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 2 P.M.

Enemy commenced attack along our whole rear 6 A.M., making feint in direction indicated, trestle bridge, has been repulsed, of course, everywhere, but not without, I fear, some loss to us and more to them. Very one-sided armistice this. Every death on both sides to-day murder to be charged to Servian leaders. Heavy firing still continues.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 9 P.M.

Attack renewed again and again without any success, supported by heavy artillery until after dark. Turks protest with great justice against bad faith of Servian leaders. I think probable that attack may be renewed to-morrow.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Friday, 2 P.M.

All quiet as yet, except shells as usual, enemy very probably disheartened, must have suffered heavy losses, including (from personal inspection) large proportion Russians and foreigners. Turkish killed and wounded over 400; official returns of killed and wounded by-and-bye. Have omitted to mention that in the attack, Tuesday, 2 A.M., Servians blew up two trestles of trestle bridge.

Telegram (E).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 1 P.M.

Returns of killed and wounded, Thursday, 80 and over 400. Enemy commenced attack extreme left rear 9 A.M., but is not gaining ground; strong demonstration in progress. Nish road right side Morava River, supposed to be only intended as a feint to attack in the rear.

Telegram (F).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 9 P.M.

Turks repelled enemy's attack, assumed offensive, and after hard fight took and occupied crest forming front line of enemy's position; night prevented further advance. Counter demonstration in the direction of Alexinatz was stopped and not permitted cross Morava River. Heavy losses on both sides to-day.

Telegram (G).

Head-Quarters, Sunday, 9 P.M.

Turks withdrew during night from the crest they had won, which was again occupied by the enemy. All quiet to-day. Very few shells. Killed and wounded over 200, and over 1,000 for the two days, Thursday and yesterday.

No. 408.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 701.)
Vienna, October 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Vienna, October 11, 1876.

Sir,

A NEWSPAPER report, probably devoid of any foundation of fact, and distinctly contradicted by those who must be well informed, is the cause of my calling the attention of your Excellency to the weakness of Austria as an ally, should the Eastern question terminate in an European war. It is reported that overtures have been made by Russia to Italy, encouraging that country to stretch its boundary over the Trentino, in the event of Austria thwarting Russian designs against Turkey. The temptation to a country circumstanced as Italy would be so great, that I think the mere rumour worthy of attention.*

Italy is on the eve of an election. Ever since 1866 diplomatic negotiations touching the Italian-speaking portion of the Tyrol have been carried on. The strength of the Italian Army is out of all proportion to its need as a defensive force, and as Nice was ceded by Treaty, the Tyrol alone offers a field for expansion. The Italians abstained from taking action against their benefactors in the moment of adversity but would owe the Austrians no debt of gratitude if an opportunity offered to regain territory once under the Venetian Republic.

Undoubtedly a stronger Italian party exists in the Tyrol than in Dalmatia, where the Italians are formidable though not numerous. And in the event of Austria engaging in any enterprise hostile to Slav interests, an Italian army of invasion might indulge reasonable expectation of sympathy in both these Provinces.

I should say from the little information I possess that the Italian army is desirous of proving to the world that she has made improvement since 1859. The extent of that improvement I am unable to report, but no country has thrown her heart and soul more thoroughly into the study and, as far as possible, practice of military art.

The question whether the Slavs of Austria would fight against what they may consider Slav interests is very serious.

The Magyars, by a total want of tact and *suaviter in modo*, have made the burden of a 55 per cent. taxation a dead weight on the inhabitants of Croatia and Slavonia, without mitigating influences such as tangible national advantages. The feeling of the Slav against the Magyar is of the bitterest. As regards Dalmatia and Bohemia, where the inhabitants are not so heavily taxed, the feeling, though unsatisfactory, is not to be called bitter.† The Slav calls for home rule without being able to find serious fault with the principle of Government.

If Russia makes war, it will be as the deadly enemy of the Turk and the Slav champion. The question I am obliged to raise is, how many of the 800,000 men constituting the armed strength of Austria would object to fight against Slav interests? How many others would be required to maintain order in the Slav Provinces? And would the remnant suffice to protect her frontier? I am pre-supposing that neither Germans nor Poles will cause complications.‡

To answer these questions one can only speculate on probabilities, but my impression is that without a hostile attitude on the side of Italy—in case of a war with Russia—Austria must fight a defensive campaign, and can afford little or no help to an ally in want of battalions.

The state of Austrian finance may at first sight appear as healthy, or rather as little

* It is said the report is an electioneering trick.
† The Slav feeling of discontent is kept alive mainly by the clericals.
‡ Any discontent in Poland is due to the clericals.

healthy, as that of Russia, but Austria has no hoarded wealth. The Slavs of Russia, on the other hand, produce large sums of money in furtherance of an idea.

Austria will do well to avoid war either single-handed or as an ally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. S. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers.*

No. 409.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 712.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 14, 1876.

IN forwarding herewith a despatch for your Lordship from Mr. Consul Holmes, which I have received under flying seal, respecting the statements of Canon Liddon and the Rev. Mr. Macoll of atrocities which had come to their knowledge on the frontier of Bosnia, I have the honour to add that Sir H. Elliot's attention was called to the subject by myself. When I did so, however, I was not aware, as I have since learnt from publications in the "Times," that these gentlemen had obtained their information when passengers in a steam-vessel on the Save, and that they had not travelled along the frontier as I led Sir Henry Elliot to believe.

I avail myself of this opportunity also to mention that I have spoken on the subject to Count Andrassy, who assures me that no atrocities of the kind alleged could have been perpetrated on the frontier of Bosnia without its being known to the Austrian authorities and reported to himself.

The whole story, therefore, probably resolves itself, as suggested by Mr. Holmes, to heads or even bodies exposed on poles, as I have myself seen men hanging in chains during the British Protectorate in the Island of Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 410.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, October* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to Sir Henry Elliot in answer to a request for information regarding a statement made by Canon Liddon that he had seen examples of revolting cruelty perpetrated by Turkish officers of the regular army, who had impaled men and women at all the military stations along the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 410.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bosna Serai, October* 5, 1876.

WITH regard to the astounding statement made to your Excellency by Canon Liddon and his friend, I have to report that neither the Turkish authorities, the Consuls, nor the people here have ever heard of anything resembling the cruelties mentioned. No statement of the kind has either appeared in any of the Slave newspapers most hostile to Turkey, and it is quite impossible to imagine that they could have occurred without immediately becoming publicly known.

Mr. Stuart Glennie arrived here a week ago from Servia, having been at Alexinatz and Deligrad, and also along the Turkish frontier of the Drina from the Save to Svornik, and neither in Servia nor in Turkey did he hear a word of any impalements; and was moreover rather favourably impressed than otherwise by all he saw and heard of the behaviour of both the Bashi-Bazouks and the regular troops along the Drina frontier.

Further up the Drina towards Vishegrad and Novi Bazar, the troops are commanded by an European officer, Mehmet Ali Pasha, who cannot possibly be supposed to permit such cruelties.

The Governor-General declares that it is utterly impossible that any Englishman could have travelled along the Bosnian frontier without his having been informed of the fact, as no one can move a mile without the cognizance of the military authorities. All Mr. Glennie's movements were telegraphed to his Excellency, but he has heard nothing of any such party as that of Canon Liddon and friend. Mr. Glennie heard nothing of them either in Servia.

Now if Canon Liddon states that he saw what he describes, of course I can say nothing to the contrary; but if he has only been assured of these atrocities, it is most certain that he has been grossly deceived with a view to make use of his voice and influence as a means of increasing and confirming public feeling in England in the belief of the barbarous conduct attributed to the Turks, and in hostility towards them.

I can say no more than that as far as I am personally concerned, I find it impossible to believe that any such cruelties have been practised.

Impalement is an atrocious torture consisting of running a stake through the body of the victim, and this being fixed upright in the earth, he is allowed to expire in torture, which is often prolonged many hours.

Is Canon Liddon aware of this? or does he call the mere fixing on pikes of the heads cut off from the dead, impalement? There must be some strange mistake in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 411.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, October 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Governor-General has just communicated to me a telegram, which states that the band which had entered Teslitch and was endeavouring to raise that district had been dispersed, and that no assistance was required from Serajevo. This matter appears to have been considerably exaggerated in the first telegram received by the Governor-General and which caused my telegraph to your Lordship.

Since I last wrote Vely Pasha the Ferik commanding in Bosnia has arrived here from Berlina with three battalions and five or six guns. It seems rather premature as yet to withdraw any forces from the frontier, but this movement has perhaps been occasioned by the late increased activity of the bands in the north-west of Bosnia, in the Sandjak of Bihach, where there has been much fighting.

The Governor-General read to me last night a telegram received from the Turkish Vice-Consul at Sinlin, stating that the Russians in Servia have promised Prince Milan that within eight days they will drive the Turks out of the country. The writer added that unless the Turks advanced on Belgrade or gained a decisive victory a Russian intervention was said to be imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 412.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 176. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that 200 German workmen hitherto employed at the gun factory at Spandau, in Prussia, have been engaged by the Servian Government for the next six months for their gun and small arms factory at Kragujevatz, whither they have arrived.

Warm coats and clothing have been contracted for for this army, and, in fact, all those arrangements are being made which presuppose a winter campaign. Russian volunteers continue to arrive.

I am reminded by all this of a statement made to me many months ago by a Russian friend, and which may still turn out true. He then said, just as the insurgents

in the Herzegovina were expected to go on during the past winter till such time as Servia and Montenegro assumed hostilities, in the same way these, in their turn, must continue as belligerents for the next waiting for Greece, the other Greeks and Roumanians to join them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 413.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 178. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 10, 1876.*

THERE is no doubt that one of the causes contributing in no small degree to complicate the critical condition of this country is due to the fact that besides the policy of the Prince and of his Ministers there is another special policy carried on by General Chernayeff at headquarters.

The pronunciamento of Prince Milan as King was an act of this kind, and though its adoption was refused by the Prince and in the Capital, and the act has been reproved by the Russian Court, still it has not been publicly disavowed, and there is no knowing what the Commander-in-Chief and his Russian and irresponsible staff may not do next, or how long Prince Milan himself may be able to resist their alluring suggestions.

It has been evident for some time previous to the commencement of the war that this Prince was thoroughly disgusted with the turn of affairs in Servia, with almost every one of his advisers, and with the "Skoupstchina," and the working of institutions which are particularly distasteful to him.

It is quite possible that when peace is restored many Russians will remain here, and that, relying on their support, Prince Milan may attempt to modify the system of Government and to discard his Servian advisers.

In the meantime he shows much inclination to favour his Russian friends, and these have no doubt other influential friends at the Russian Court.

Last Sunday two Aides-de-Camp of General Chernayeff's returned with despatches from there, one of them Count Keller had brought a letter from General Sinoview, the Maréchal de la Cour of the Grand Duke Czarewitch, and had had an audience of his Imperial Highness.

As soon as one of these returned to Deligrad another Aide-de-Camp was sent with important communications for Prince Milan, and I have been assured that some new important suggestion is on the "tapis."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 414.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 179. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 11, 1876.*

HAVING had several interviews with M. de Kartzoff and my other colleagues, and also with M. Ristitch, on the subject of the projected armistice, I had every reason to believe that one for a month or six weeks, if concluded with all the usual formalities, would be accepted here.

M. Kartzoff assured me that he had been consulted on the occasion, when I had so strongly recommended the renewal of the truce on the 25th September, but that he had neither supported adoption nor advised its rejection at the time, not having any instructions; he admitted that the course which had prevailed, notwithstanding my representations and those of my French and Italian colleagues, had led to the loss of many lives, but he spoke in a sanguine tone if the proposals of a longer truce or armistice were now renewed.

Nothing could be more re-assuring than the language of M. Ristitch on this subject up to last night.

Intelligence has, however, been received from Constantinople this afternoon that the Porte is about to offer an armistice of five months duration.

As far as I can judge of the impression produced by this information, I am inclined to think that it will not find the Prince favourably disposed to the acceptance of so long a term.

But it is premature to express an opinion till we hear how far the Russian Government and its Agent here are prepared to support the last offer of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 415.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 874.)
Paris, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes came to me this morning and, after explaining to me the view he took of the present situation of the Eastern question, begged me to let your Lordship know, as soon as possible, that he had come to the conclusion that it would be good policy for the other Powers to yield to the opinion expressed by Russia as to the duration of the armistice, and to consent to some reduction of the period of six months proposed by Turkey.

I have accordingly despatched to your Lordship a telegram to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 416.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 875. Confidential.)
Paris, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE already to-day, at the request of the Duc Decazes, informed your Lordship by telegraph that he is of opinion that it would be good policy for the other Powers to make some concession to Russia on the question of the duration of the armistice.

The Duke came to see me this morning, evidently for the purpose of making this suggestion.

He said that, whatever view might be taken of the intentions of Russia, there could, he thought, be no doubt that it would be advantageous to yield to her on this point.

For his own part, he believed that the Russian Government sincerely desired peace, but that it felt the necessity of obtaining some satisfaction for the pride of the nation, that, at all events, it could not afford to appear to its subjects to have sustained a check. It had made its objections to an armistice of six months so public that it could hardly now withdraw them. If those at the head of affairs were really, as he supposed, seeking for the means of making peace without wounding the susceptibility of the nation, it would be good policy to facilitate their task, not to render it difficult.

On the other hand, it could not be denied that there were plausible grounds for arguing that Russia had made up her mind to occupy Bulgaria, and was simply seeking a pretext for doing so. If this were the case, it would certainly be desirable for the other Powers to know it positively as soon as possible.

If the Porte were persuaded to accept an armistice limited to the period which Russia suggested, the Russian Government must either agree to it at once, or must show plainly that it is determined to pick a quarrel with Turkey.

The Duc Decazes said that up to this point he had held to his acceptance of the period proposed by the Porte. He had, in compliance with the request I had made to him, sent instructions to Belgrade and to Cettigné to urge the Servian and Montenegrin Governments to agree to the armistice of six months. In his communications with Russia, he had expressed his hope that the objections of Prince Gortchakow had been founded on the first telegraphic reports from Constantinople, and that they would be removed when his Highness saw the text of the notes of the Porte respecting the armistice and the reforms.

The Duke observed to me that, in fact, all the Representatives at Constantinople, except Sir Henry Elliot, had led their Governments to suppose that the Porte had clogged its assent to the armistice with conditions *sine quibus non*. For several days the Governments had been kept in suspense with regard to the particulars of these conditions. At

last it appeared that there were no such conditions at all, but that the Porte had merely expressed wishes which it left unreservedly to the appreciation of the Powers. It was not, however, surprising that in the interval the Russian and other Governments had conceived doubts as to what the Porte might really mean. These doubts had, indeed, been removed by the actual terms of the note; but in the meantime the Russian Government had committed itself to objections to the duration of the armistice in such a manner as to render it very difficult for it now to recede from them.

It was also, the Duke said, to be remembered that the note concerning the armistice was immediately followed by one concerning the reforms. The two notes ought to be taken together, and so taken, they certainly seemed to show an earnest desire on the part of the Porte to satisfy the Powers. In fact, the reforms, as stated in the note, appeared to contain all that had been asked of the Porte, and to leave only one question open, that of the guarantees for the execution of them, which the Powers required.

The Duke went on to say that he had availed himself of these considerations in communicating with the Russian Government, and had maintained the opinion that the Russian objections must rest upon a misunderstanding produced by the first imperfect accounts transmitted by telegraph. He found, however, that it would be impossible for him to maintain this position much longer. The Russian Government, with the full written information before it, seemed resolved to adhere to its objections; and he confessed that he thought that it would be expedient to yield to them. He begged me to let your Lordship know as soon as possible that this was his opinion.

Having said this, the Duke proceeded to mention some plans which had suggested themselves to him for reconciling, in appearance at least, the Turkish and Russian views. "Might it not," he said, "be held that an armistice, for whatever term it was concluded, would come to an end at once if, in the course of it, negotiations were broken off? If this were so, might it not be provided that the armistice should last for six months, unless in the meantime negotiations were broken off?"

I suggested that this would be nearly equivalent to providing that each party might put an end to the armistice whenever it pleased.

The Duke admitted this, and went on to say that perhaps the converse would answer better. Could it be arranged that the armistice should be concluded for two months, with a proviso that it should be prolonged if the negotiations were not concluded?

I asked him if he had reason to think that such an arrangement would satisfy Russia.

He answered that it might, perhaps. After all, he said that his first plan amounted to no more than affirming that the armistice should last for six months, if it did not come to an end sooner; while his second plan might be taken to mean no more than that the armistice should end in two months, if it did not last longer.

The course to which he seemed at last most to incline was to endeavour to arrange an ordinary armistice for six weeks or possibly two months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 417.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 876.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 16, 1876.

I HAVE mentioned in my immediately preceding despatch No. 875 of this date, that the Duc Decazes said to me this morning that the note from the Porte communicating to the Powers the reforms which it had resolved to introduce into the Empire seemed to reduce the matter simply to the question of the guarantees to be obtained by them for the execution of these reforms.

The Duke said that he did not see that any difficulty need arise about this question. The Powers could, he thought, establish these guarantees for themselves, even without the participation of the Porte. It would suffice, he conceived, to assemble a Conference at which a Protocol should be signed by the Plenipotentiaries, recording the fact that this system of reforms had been formally communicated to their respective Governments, and declaring that if the Porte should fail to execute it, she would forfeit the support of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 418.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 877. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 16, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he did not at all believe the newspaper stories that a formal Treaty had been concluded between Italy and Russia providing that Italy should be aggrandized at the expense of Austria as a recompense for supporting Russian views in Turkey. He added that he did not even suppose that any verbal understanding of this nature had been come to between the two Powers. He did think, however, that the Italian imagination had been excited by the prospect of an accession of territory, and he looked upon the recent conduct of the Italian Government as intended to convey to Russia a hint that Italy is open to an offer.

It was at all events, the Duke conceived, indisputable that Signor Melegari's objections to the armistice of six months, and his proposal that it should be reduced to one of two months, were made at the instigation of Russia. He had been confirmed in this conviction by a comparison of dates. The Russian Ambassador here had communicated to him a telegram in cypher from Prince Gortchakow objecting to the six months' armistice. On the next day but one the Russian telegram *en clair* stating the same objections had arrived. It was on the intermediate day that Signor Melegari put forward objections exactly in the sense of Prince Gortchakow's first telegram.

The French public see the finger of Prince Bismarck in everything that occurs. Their impression is that Italy would not have gone even so far as they suppose her to have gone already if she had not made herself sure of German as well as Russian support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 419.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October 17, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW has just told me that, in the absence of any news from Baden and from Varzin, he is not in a position to say whether the German Government will support England and Austria or Russia in the armistice question. His Excellency has given a similar reply to my colleagues.

General Schweinitz is expected to-morrow from Baden.

The impression of persons in office and at Court is that the German Emperor will do nothing in opposition to the Czar's wishes at present.

No. 420.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876, 8·5 P.M.*

IT is stated in letter from "Times" Correspondent at Therapia, dated 10th instant, and published in to-day's "Times," that Sadoullah Bey, President of the Bulgarian Commission, is "enjoying at Philippopoli the hospitality of Achmet Aga."

Is there any truth in this? Has not Achmet Aga been arrested?

No. 421.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 518.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

I APPROVE the advice which you gave to your Turkish colleague to telegraph to his Government to urge the acceptance of the English terms of peace, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 159 of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 422.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 526.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador, in a conversation which he held with me this day, spoke with anxiety of the situation, which he described as unsatisfactory and even dangerous. The Emperor of Russia, he said, had decided some time ago that having regard to the feeling of his own people, and to the agitation that prevailed among them, he could not longer allow the continuance of war between Servia and Turkey. With the view of putting an end to it he had engaged in negotiations for an armistice; and the armistice proposed by the Porte being inadmissible, it was difficult to see what expedient remained. Either a new arrangement must be made in the nature of a compromise between the Russian and the Turkish proposals, or Russia would be thrown back on her original proposition of an occupation of Turkish territory.

I said that it was unnecessary to warn his Excellency as to the danger of a general disturbance of European peace which was involved in any such scheme of occupation, however limited it might be both as to area and as to time.

Count Schouvaloff then added as a personal suggestion that as it could not be easy for either the Russian or the English Government, both of which had already expressed decided opinions on the matter in dispute, to offer a new suggestion to the Porte, it might be well if some other Government, hitherto unpledged, like that of Germany or of Austria, should undertake to come forward with a plan which both might accept as a compromise. I said, in reply, that I saw no objection in principle to the course which he suggested, though I must, of course, reserve my opinion till I knew whether any such interposition was likely to take place, and in what sense. I told Count Schouvaloff that I had already taken steps to ascertain, more accurately than I know it at present, the opinion of the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 653.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

THE "Times" of to-day publishes a letter from its correspondent at Therapia, dated the 10th instant, in which it is stated that Sadullah Bey, the President of the Bulgarian Commission, is "enjoying at Philippopoli the hospitality of Achmet Agha."

I have to request that your Excellency will report to me what truth there is in this statement, and you will at the same time inform me whether or not Achmet Agha has been arrested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 424.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 659.) *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876.*

My Lord,

IT is of great importance, at the present crisis, that Her Majesty's Government should have the clearest possible understanding of the attitude taken by each of the Powers with regard to the successive phases of the pending negotiations with the Porte. With respect to the attitude of Prince Bismarck as regards the acceptance of the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, there has been some confusion which your Excellency will probably be able to explain.

On the 11th instant you were informed by telegraph that Sir Henry Elliot had reported on the 10th that this proposal had been made by the Porte.

On the 13th instant you telegraphed that the acceptance of the armistice had been urged on Servia by the German Government. On the receipt of this information Her Majesty's Government informed the Powers that Germany, as well as France and Austria, had accepted the armistice. They had no doubt that the acceptance was absolute; but it appears from your despatch No. 442 of the 13th instant, that, though instructions had been sent to the German Consul-General at Belgrade to speak to the Servian Government in the same sense as His Majesty's Consul-General, Herr von Bülow had said that, considering the possible objections of Austria and Russia, the German Government would reserve their opinion until they should have received more detailed reports from Constantinople and knew the views of the Guaranteeing Powers. It would seem from these remarks of Herr von Bülow that Her Majesty's Government were mistaken in supposing that the armistice had been accepted by Germany but, as it is important that there should be no misapprehension on the point, I should wish to know whether your telegram of the 13th was founded on a conversation in which no mention had been made of the reservation of the decision of Germany, or whether there were special reasons for delaying the information as to the hesitation of the Imperial Government when you telegraphed that the instructions to urge the acceptance of the armistice had been sent to the German Agent at Belgrade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 425.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876, 3 P.M.*

RUSSIAN press is violent and unanimous against the acceptance of the proposed Turkish armistice. There is much fanatical excitement and a general feeling for war throughout the country.

Position of the Emperor and Government very embarrassing, and without a compromise on the armistice question they may be forced by public opinion into action.

In order to maintain European concert, essential to the general peace, an armistice until the end of the year might be acceptable to all parties, and thus avert a Russian occupation of Turkish territory, which otherwise appears imminent. This period ought to suffice to prove the sincerity and efficacy of peace negotiations.

No. 426.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 17, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

FROM Montenegro to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas charges me to state to Her Majesty's Government that he, for his part, accepts the armistice, and will give his formal answer as soon as he receives from Belgrade (the?) reply which he is expecting. But His Highness cannot consent to a longer term than two months, and that because all the advantages of a long armistice

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

would be on the side of the Porte. He says that he knows that the Servian (Government?) have come to the same conclusion.

"I fear that it will be impossible to alter this resolution, as from military point of view His Highness' arguments are sound.

"I am assured, on excellent authority, that Russia will make the refusal of a shorter armistice a *casus belli*."

No. 427.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 17, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

I HAVE had a conversation with Count Andrassy since receiving your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday when I acquainted him with your answer to Prince Gortchakow's proposal of an armistice of six weeks as the original proposal of England.

He says he has received to-day a telegram from Count Beust reporting that Count Schouvaloff had telegraphed to Livadia that Her Majesty's Government consider themselves engaged by acceptance of Turkish proposal; but Count Schouvaloff presumed that, if a Power accepted the five months with conditions that in the event of the Porte refusing its assent to decisions of the Conference, the armistice would terminate *ipso facto*, such an expedient would be accepted.

Count Andrassy said he did not understand whether Count Schouvaloff had done this with your Lordship's sanction; but, however that may be, he said that if Her Majesty's Government assents to such a proposal he will do so likewise, though he is still ready to insist on Turkish proposal being accepted unconditionally.

He then told me that the Turks have offered to withdraw their troops from Servian territory if the armistice is accepted, on condition that the territory shall not be militarily occupied while it lasts.

It is essential, however, he said, with regard to these proposals that your Lordship should state clearly which Her Majesty's Government are disposed to maintain and recommend, in order that he may be able to act in concert with them.

His Excellency leaves for Pesth this evening, and if he remains there I shall go also, as communications through Baron Orczy lead to misunderstandings as evidenced by my telegram of the 14th.

No. 428.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876, 4 P.M.*

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that Prince Bismarck, without giving any decided opinion, had, however, admitted the explanations of Prince Gortchakow against long armistice.

No. 429.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 17, 1876, 10 P.M.*

THE evening papers report the arrival of a "feldjager" with letters from Livadia for the Emperor.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 430.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 484.)
My Lord,
St. Petersburgh, October 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a précis of an article in this morning's "Golos," respecting the offer of a six months' armistice by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 430.

Précis of Article in the "Golos" of October $\frac{1}{13}$, 1876.

"NOTWITHSTANDING its strange nature, Russia can accept the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice.

"Everyone knows that Russia will only consider that a peace administrative autonomy has been granted to the Slavonic provinces when administrative authority, inclusive of the highest posts, has been transferred to the local Christians, and when not a single soldier remains on Slavonic soil.

"This evidently is Russia's last word, from which she will not go back.

"It must not be forgotten that whatever the period may be which is fixed for the armistice, it only indicates the extreme limit of the cessation of hostilites which can always be resumed if the negotiations lead to a conviction that peace is impossible.

"Russia reserves a full right to put an end to the negotiations as she is convinced of their futility, and this fact leaves both Russia and the Turkish Slavs entire liberty of action."

No. 431.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 371.)
My Lord,
Rome, October 14, 1876.

I INFORMED Signor Melegari to-day that I was instructed to ask why he considered that a six months' armistice would be the ruin of Servia and Montenegro. I urged that the refusal of the Italian Government to recommend the acceptance of the armistice might have disastrous consequences in showing that there were dissentors among the Powers, and in encouraging the prosecution of the war by Servia, and the continuance of bloodshed with the possibility of European complications; and I said that Her Majesty's Government hoped, therefore, that on further consideration the Government of His Italian Majesty would not withhold support to the action taken by England, Germany, Austria, and France.

His Excellency said that he had already given me the reasons which led him to form so unfavourable an opinion of the result of a six months' armistice to Servia and Montenegro, and to the insurgent Provinces. That he had telegraphed these views to General Menabrea, who would submit them forthwith to your Lordship. He was willing to follow the example of the Powers named as having recommended Servia to accept the armistice, but he desired first to submit his views upon this subject to them; and he urged that the fact of his having already designated the officials who should be charged to assist in drawing up the military details of the armistice proved that he was favourable to an armistice in principle. He proceeded to elaborate the objections already made by him which I mentioned in my despatch No. 367 of the 12th instant, and he declared that if he now made difficulties, it was purely from the humanitarian point of view, as he could not contemplate the possibility of negotiations being protracted during the winter without shuddering at the consequences to the suffering populations of the Provinces and the Principalities.

He earnestly disclaimed the idea which he felt might be entertained that he was actuated in his policy by a desire to be well with Russia; and he declared that while the policy of Italy had in former years been from the force of circumstances either a French or a German policy, at present he could honestly say that it was purely Italian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 432.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Rome, October 14, 1876.

ALTHOUGH the message which I gave to Signor Melegari from your Lordship this morning concerning the refusal of the Italian Government to recommend Servia to accept the armistice was sufficiently cogent, it did not induce his Excellency to accede to your Lordship's request. The Russian Ambassador had already communicated a message from Livadia, which arrived this morning, saying that his Government deemed six months too long, and suggesting two months or six weeks. Signor Melegari, therefore, felt that he must disclaim any influence of Russia in the course he was taking. He said that to accept such armistice was to bring diplomacy into derision; that he had sufficient experience of the Porte to know that it would probably succeed in prolonging the negotiations to the term of the armistice; and that meantime the populations of the insurgent provinces would be dying, and the Treasuries of the State emptied. He could not understand how any Government could accept a proposal which was capable of such a result.

I replied that the negotiations were not necessarily longer because the armistice was to last during the winter, and that Her Majesty's Government had the fate of the Provinces too much at heart to permit the state of things feared by his Excellency.

I will not weary your Lordship with a further account of a very long conversation. In the end I said that I should have to telegraph that he refused your Lordship's appeal, but that as I wished to do so in such a manner as to explain the exact thoughts of his Excellency, I would write down what he said to me—the result I have had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship.

While perfectly willing to credit Signor Melegari with good faith, I cannot help fearing that the Italian policy which he proclaims may be based upon the contingent disagreement of Austria and Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 433.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 716.)
My Lord,
Vienna, October 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a letter from Belgrade to the "Politische Correspondenz," a semi-official journal, on the subject of the number of Russian officers now serving in the Servian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 433.

Extract from the "Presse."

(Translation.)

THE Russian Committees continue to pay their attention to the relief of the military wants of Servia. The deficiency in the number of officers has been entirely remedied since the 1st of September, at which date there were already 479 Russian officers in the Servian army. Tchernaieff then turned the attention of the Committees to the fact that they were in urgent want of educated non-commissioned officers, and at the present moment the number of Russian non-commissioned officers in the Morava army alone amounts to 592, half of whom have received the medal for "bravery."

The next gap to be filled up was in the cavalry. Accordingly, 1,800 Cossacks have arrived within the last four weeks, some of them splendidly mounted, and quite equal to the Turkish cavalry, even to the well-known Tcherkessen.

Lastly, the artillery was taken into consideration; for, though it has been excellently worked during the war, the Servian guns were found to be too small to be of much use. This deficiency has also now been partially remedied. Two batteries of mitrailleuses and two batteries of heavy guns have arrived from Moscow, and were yesterday dispatched to

Deligrad, where they are to be worked by Russian artillerymen. A heavy battery has also been sent off to-day to the Ibar army, in charge of two Russian officers.

The Russian Lieutenant Mussin Puschkin, a relation of the celebrated Russian poet Puschkin, has greatly distinguished himself by blowing up a bridge which had been thrown over the Morava by the Turks, and has to-day received his appointment as a captain in reward for his services. He is also to be Commandant of the Sotnia Cossacks, who are to form the Prince's body-guard at head-quarters.

Count Lewuckoff is to receive the command of the cavalry in the Drina army. Very large quantities of ammunition have arrived the last few days through Roumania, and twelve cases of swords and 22,000 muskets have just been sent in the same way.

No. 434.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated confidentially to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Octobre,* 1876.

LE Gouverneur-Général de Widin nous télégraphie ce qui suit :—

"Dans la nuit du 25 Septembre, vieux style, 260 Russes armés ont passé en Servie, par Tourno-Séverin ; la nuit suivante, 240 autres individus se sont servis de la même voie pour se rendre à Belgrade à bord du bateau le 'Déligrad.' Le 27 du même mois, 60 Russes ont traversé également Tourno-Séverin pour aller en Servie. Parmi ces gens, on en a remarqué plusieurs portant le costume et parlant la langue Circassien. Recrutés parmi les Cosaques du Daghestan, ils ont été dirigés en grande partie vers Belgrade et à Nigotine, très probablement pour être lancés, le cas échéant, vers nos villages Circassiens, pour commettre toutes sortes de méfaits à la faveur de leur déguisement, et tromper, même parfois nos corps de gardes."

Veuillez entretenir confidentiellement le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la nouvelle tactique à laquelle les Serviens ont recours.

No. 435.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, October 18.)

NOS arguments pour limiter l'armistice à six semaines n'ont été refutés par personne. D'ailleurs nous admettons qu'il pourrait être prolongé si les négociations de paix l'exigent, mais nous maintenons le principe.

Safvet maintient les six mois comme résolution inébranlable, rejette le système autonome ainsi que le Protocole. Il repousse donc indirectement les bases Anglaises affirmant que les réformes promises par la Porte suffisent.

Accepterait-on ce défi jeté à la face de toute l'Europe ? Pour notre part nous ne le ferons pas. Personne ne désire plus que nous l'accord Européen sur un but commun d'humanité et de civilisation. Nous n'apportons dans la question aucune vue intéressée, mais il y a des limites que l'honneur et la dignité ne permettent pas de dépasser. Nous le devons à l'histoire qui en jugera.

L'obstination de la Porte cesserait si l'absence d'union entre les Puissances et des insinuations secrètes à Constantinople ne l'encourageraient.

Vous parlez de l'acceptation des six mois par les autres Puissances, nous en doutons. Entre autres l'Allemagne ne s'est pas encore prononcée.

No. 436.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 18, 1876, 4·50 P.M.

THE following translation of a telegram from Italian Representative at Cettigné, dated to-day, 10 A.M. :—

"Austria has telegraphed to its Agent to say to the Prince that it thanks him for his acceptance of the armistice in principle, and that it requests him to try to suspend his ulterior decisions, because England will make another proposition on the duration of the armistice."

Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me to express to your Lordship his great satisfaction at the last part of this telegram.

No. 437.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have not agreed upon any fresh proposals with Count Schouvaloff. A Cabinet Council will be held to-morrow, after which I may be in a position to give further instructions.

No. 438.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876.

FROM Monson :—

"With reference to my telegram of this morning respecting Russian *casus belli*, I have reason to believe that my informant, French Agent, exaggerated the language used to him by the Prince.

"His Highness has telegraphed to Belgrade that he has placed himself in the hands of Mediating Powers, and declared to the foreign Agents here that he accepts the armistice, remarking only that he thinks six months too long."

No. 439.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 499.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

I APPROVE the note, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch No. 365 of the 10th instant, which you addressed to the Italian Government, acquainting them with the substance of the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the proposals of Russia for the occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 440.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 528.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow to the following effect :—

His Highness states that no one has yet refuted the arguments adduced by Russia for the limitation of the armistice to six weeks. Moreover, while maintaining this principle the Russian Government admit that the armistice might be prolonged if the negotiations for peace rendered this necessary.

He remarks that the Turkish Foreign Minister adheres inflexibly to the term of six months, and rejects the system of autonomy and the proposed Protocol ; thus indirectly refusing the basis proposed by England, and affirming the sufficiency of the reforms promised by the Porte.

Prince Gortchakow asks whether this defiance of all Europe is to be accepted ; Russia, his Highness says, certainly will not do so. No Power is more desirous of a general European agreement in the interests of humanity and civilisation. Russia has no interested

views in this question, but there are limits which cannot be passed consistently with honour and dignity. The Russian Government leave their conduct to the judgment of history.

His Highness believes that the obstinacy of the Porte would cease if it were not encouraged by the absence of union among the Powers; and in reply to an observation addressed to him by Count Schouvaloff as to the acceptance of the six months' armistice by the other Powers, Prince Gortchakow expresses his doubt whether this is the fact, stating that, among others, Germany has given no decided opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 441.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 446.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

IT was stated by your Excellency in your telegram of yesterday that Count Andrassy had informed you that it had been reported to him by Count Beust that Count Schouvaloff had telegraphed to Livadia that, though Her Majesty's Government considered themselves to be engaged by their acceptance of the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, he presumed that, if a Power accepted the five months with the condition that in the event of the Porte refusing its assent to the decisions of a Conference, the armistice would terminate *ipso facto*, such an expedient would be accepted. Count Andrassy had said that he did not understand whether this suggestion had been made with my sanction; but he had added that, if Her Majesty's Government assented to it, he would also assent, though he was ready to insist on the unconditional acceptance of the Turkish proposal. He expressed the wish that he might be told what course Her Majesty's Government were disposed to maintain and recommend in order that he might act in concert with us.

My reply to Count Andrassy's question is that I have agreed upon no fresh proposals with Count Schouvaloff. As regards the course which Her Majesty's Government will adopt under present circumstances I may be in a position to give you further instructions after the meeting of the Cabinet, which has been summoned for to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 442.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 447. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me this afternoon the instructions given by his Government to their Ambassador at St. Petersburgh with regard to the Turkish proposal for a five months' armistice.

The instructions state that the opinion of the Austrian Government is decidedly in favour of a long armistice, as better in the interests of peace and of commerce; but that it is important that the Porte should accept the *status quo* for Servia and Montenegro as a basis of peace, and should also declare its readiness to abide by the decision of the Powers.

The Austrian Government add, that in view of the approaching meeting of the Austro-Hungarian Parliaments, it would be difficult for them to refuse the Turkish proposal, and that being under the necessity of pronouncing a public decision they declare themselves ready to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 443.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 448.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that he had informed your Excellency that the Austrian Government accept the Turkish proposal of armistice as it stands ("telle quelle") without restriction, and have recommended it to Servia and Montenegro.

Count Andrassy has instructed Count Beust to make the same communication to me, and to say that he will be glad to be informed if there should be any change of view on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 444.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 665.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876.

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon at my request, and I spoke to him in the sense of the telegraphic instruction which I addressed to your Lordship yesterday.

I said that being led to anticipate objections by the Porte to the bases of peace which had been proposed by England in concert with the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government had, at the instance of Russia, pressed the Porte to agree to an armistice of not less than a month, with the intention that a Conference should immediately follow on its conclusion.

The Turkish Government had accepted the armistice, proposing that it should be for five months; but the Russian Government had objected to so long a term, and insisted on its limitation to a month or six weeks, subject to renewal if necessary. They had also intimated that their acceptance of a Conference would be conditional on the exclusion of a Turkish Representative.

The efforts of Her Majesty's Government to bring about an agreement between the views of the opposite parties seemed thus to be exhausted, and it must, I thought, remain for some other Power, hitherto unpledged, to come forward with a fresh proposal, if one could be discovered which would be likely of acceptance.

The Government of Germany, which had hitherto maintained an attitude of reserve, and was not committed to any decided opinion upon the points at issue, might be able usefully to intervene at this juncture, and to exert the great influence which they undoubtedly possessed, to procure the acceptance of some compromise, and avert the danger, which now seemed imminent, of an open rupture between Turkey and Russia.

I begged Count Münster to lay these observations before Prince Bismarck, who would be ready, I felt sure, to exert himself, as far as lay in his power, to prevent any further disturbance of European peace.

Count Münster promised that he would do so, and would make me acquainted as soon as possible with Prince Bismarck's views, but said that he was unable at present to give me any information on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 445.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876, 9·15 P.M.

I HAVE forwarded to Pesth confidentially, through Minister of Foreign Affairs, the substance of your Lordship's answer to my telegram of yesterday. Count Andrassy will probably return here with the Emperor before the end of the week.

No. 446.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18, at night.)

Vienna, October 18, 1876, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN forwarding these figures from Monson, I have heard nothing here of the alleged statement of the Austrian Agent in Montenegro.

Austrian Agent asked Prince Nicholas this morning what he knew of the attitude of Russia. His Highness declared that he did not believe in any immediate hostile intentions on her part, but thought that there was danger of affairs taking such a turn eventually as to force her to go to war.

My French and Italian colleagues persist that Russia has already decided upon a war policy.

The Prince is very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for their efforts to shorten the duration of the armistice, as announced to him by Austria. Servia tells him that she coincides in his views as to duration.

No. 447.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18, at night.)

St. Petersburgh, October 18, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that General Ignatiew was to leave Livadia to-day for Constantinople.

No. 448.

Consul Barrow to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

Kertch, October 9, 1876.

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to make the following report without vouching for its authenticity, but believing it to be correct:—

1,500 torpedoes have been laid down in the Black Sea and near the battery, and it is stated that five steamers of the Russian Company have been sold to the Government for that service.

Provisions of flour, &c., and 60,000 poods of coal are ordered to be stored at the battery, where the apparently interminable works are said to be approaching their termination, extra hands being employed since the visit of the Minister of War a fortnight ago.

All persons, without reference to nationality, are now prohibited access to the fortress, which at present contains about 5,000 soldiers, and it is said that this number will be raised to 30,000.

Every steamer brings soldiers.

Last week 300 arrived from Theodosia, without a single officer, the latter having been detained at Theodosia owing to the cholera ulcerations.

On Saturday last a number of soldiers arrived by steamer from Kuga.

100 hands are daily employed in making clothing.

All these circumstances create great uneasiness. Commerce is almost entirely suspended. British shipping is now worse than I have seen during ten years, and it is probable that great misery will be experienced in Kertch during the approaching winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PETER BARROW.

No. 449.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

Rome, October 16, 1876.

(No. 375.)

My Lord,

I INFORMED Signor Melegari yesterday that, having telegraphed to your Lordship his Excellency's hope that you would insist upon the armistice being continued to two

months, I had been informed in reply that Her Majesty's Government did not see any reason for doing so, and that they had already joined the other Powers in accepting the Turkish proposal. I added that I was instructed to urge most strongly upon the Government of the King of Italy not to separate their action from that of Austria and the other Powers, who had already assented to the armistice. I pointed out that, by doing so, they would incur the gravest responsibility, and I reminded his Excellency once more of his previous assurances of his desire to act in concert with England, whose interests, like those of Italy, were in the preservation of European peace.

His Excellency observed, upon this point, that he had, indeed, always urged England to take the lead, and had supported loyally every step which she had taken, and, in the present instance, he would continue in the same course, but he must have time to see what he was doing. He had already informed me that he had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the result of a six months' armistice to the Principalities and the Provinces. We asked him, notwithstanding, to advise Servia to accept it. He was so penetrated with the necessity of concert that he would yield to this request if the other Powers acted in the same sense, but he thought that England would admit that it was his duty to acquaint himself, through his own Agents, as to the course which the other Governments intended to adopt before he telegraphed to Servia to recommend her to accept an armistice of which he did not approve, and gave advice which he would only give because of his desire not to separate himself from England and the other Powers.

I said that Her Majesty's Government would learn with very great regret that Italy continued to abstain, even though the abstention were temporary, as they were most anxious that the same advice should be given simultaneously by the Powers at Belgrade and Cettigné.

His Excellency ultimately stated that he would send a telegram to the Italian Agents in Servia and Montenegro desiring them to prepare the Governments of those Principalities to accept the armistice, and I wrote down the message as his Excellency composed it, as follows:—

"Sur les instances de l'Angleterre les autres Puissances paraissant, malgré l'avis contraire de la Russie, disposées à accepter les contre-propositions de la Porte, vous préparerez le Gouvernement de Servie/Monténégro à ne pas entraver par un refus absolu les intentions bienveillantes de l'Europe."

His Excellency, to whom I gave a copy of what I had written, said that I might telegraph to your Lordship that he would send an instruction in the above sense immediately.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 450.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

Rome, October 16, 1876.

(No. 376.)

My Lord,

THE disinclination of Italy to recommend Servia and Montenegro to accept the six months' armistice proposed by the Porte has not unnaturally been ascribed to a desire on the part of Italy to do nothing which might give umbrage to Russia.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has been at pains to assure me that the course which he has adopted has not been the result of any pressure brought to bear upon him by that Power, and he has spoken at length on the reports which have circulated ever since the journey of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Piedmont to St. Petersburgh, to the effect that Italy was drawing closer to Russia.

He gave the origin of this visit, which he stated to have been the result of an invitation made on the occasion of the funeral of the Emperor Ferdinand, and he repelled the idea that politics had aught to do with it, or that a change in foreign policy was the result of it.

The reports spoken of by his Excellency have gained so much consistency that though very unwilling to express an opinion which must necessarily be of a speculative nature, and which is contrary to the general one, I think I ought to say that I believe there to be no truth in the idea that the present policy of Italy is founded on a specific understanding between her and Russia.

It is only natural to suppose that Italian statesmen keep in view the possibility of a war between Russia and Austria arising out of the Eastern question. They will also

naturally have some doubt as to England taking part in it after the recent ebullition of feeling.

Under such circumstances Russia would be the Power from whom they might expect assistance in proportion to services rendered.

The situation is sufficiently clear to account for Italy acting apparently in the interests of Russia, without suspecting that she is acting under pressure from her, or in consequence of a secret understanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 451.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 879. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 16, 1876.*

IN the very Confidential despatch marked No. 825, which I had the honour to write to your Lordship on the 2nd instant, I mentioned that the Duc Decazes had expressed to me the opinion that if the Emperor Alexander could succeed in recovering the part of Bessarabia ceded by the Treaty of Paris, the difficulty of settling with His Majesty all other questions relative to Turkey would not prove to be very great.

In the course of the conversation which he had with me this morning the Duc Decazes expressed this opinion again, but he did not dwell upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 452.

Mr. Corbett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Berne, October 17, 1876.*

THE President told me yesterday that the Federal Government had observed with disquiet the rumours which have of late appeared in various German and Italian papers relative to the supposed understanding between Italy and Russia in case a war, which he considered inevitable, should break out in Europe, and the possible acquisition by Italy of the remaining Italian territories of Austria.

His Excellency said that the position of Switzerland in the event of such a change would be very unsatisfactory, as Switzerland, one Canton—Tessin—of which is entirely Italian, would then be the only foreign country which comprised within its limits territory inhabited by the Italian race.

M. Welti also told me that he regretted to learn from advices received from various Italian ports that preparations were being made as if it was thought Italy was about to engage in war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 453.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, October 19, 1876, 8·10 A.M.*

COUNT MUNSTER has been instructed to communicate Prince Bismarck's answer to your Lordship. He had no objection to six months' armistice, but sees no reason to press it at the present juncture. He prefers to reserve his opinion, and to observe a benevolent neutrality until other Powers are agreed.

No. 454.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 2·27 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 19, 1876, 12·35 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has replied to my inquiry that I shall be welcome at Livadia.

I shall await your Lordship's instructions as to departure. Shall I await messenger on Sunday evening?

I propose taking messenger Drury with me.

No. 455.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 19, 1876, 3·20 P.M.*

THE German Ambassador communicated to me late last evening the following telegram from Berlin:—

"We have from the beginning of the Oriental crisis always had in view as principal object the maintenance of peace in Europe. In the interest of peace we have tried to prevent that the friendly Powers more directly interested in the East should separate, and we have always tried to avoid taking any decisive part for one of the Powers. As far as a general undertaking could be obtained we joined them and put our influence to their disposal; but we never went further than that. We cannot deviate from this line of conduct, and cannot take a leading part, which the natural position of Germany in the East would not justify, and which might endanger the peace of Europe.

"Although we are of opinion that an armistice of six months appears to us to be acceptable, and that we would have wished Russia to accept it, we do not think that, taking into account the position we have held till now, we would be justified to exercise a pressure on the resolution of other Powers. An armistice, however, of six weeks, the longest term on which an agreement was obtained, and which is two weeks more than England originally proposed, might perhaps offer some chance for a solution."

I have called his attention to the passage stating that an armistice of six weeks is "two weeks more than England originally proposed;" and pointed out that the proposal of England in the telegram to Sir H. Elliot on the 1st of September was for an armistice of "not less than a month's duration;" and again on the 5th instant an armistice of "not less than a month."

Point this out also at Berlin.

No. 456.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 3·32 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876, 12·15 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW returned this morning from the Crimea in one of the Imperial yachts.

No. 457.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

MR. BARING tells me that there is no truth whatever in the statement of the "Times" correspondent that Saloullah Bey is enjoying the hospitality of Achmet Agha at Philippopoli. Achmet Agha, who is under arrest while his trial is being carried on, does not live at Philippopoli, but belongs to a distant part of the district.

No. 458.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 19, 1876, 3·24 P.M.

M. DE BULOW has this day told the Turkish Ambassador that the German Government agree with the Russian Government in regard to the proposed armistice of six months, and adhere to the original demand made by England, supported by the other Powers.

No. 459.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October* 19, 1876.

MY Austrian colleague, who returned here the day before yesterday, tells me confidentially that he finds the German Government more inclined to support Russia than Austria at this [moment ?], to his great regret.

No. 460.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876, 6:25 P.M.

YOU may inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government, having accepted proposal of Porte for six months' armistice, will not make any new proposition; but if Porte is willing to reduce the length of the armistice, as desired by Russia, Her Majesty's Government will place no obstacles in the way.

No. 461.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 502.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 367 of the 12th instant, reporting the conversation which took place between yourself and Signor Melegari, when you pointed out to his Excellency the importance of Italy urging Servia to accept the five months' armistice proposed by the Porte, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your language on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 462.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 652.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I was on the point of instructing you to request the British Admiral to dispatch a gun-boat to the Danube, as suggested in your telegram of the 7th instant, when I received your further telegram of yesterday's date; and I approve of your having requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" to proceed to Tchernaida for the protection of British interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 463.

The Earl of Derby to Count Münster.

Dear Count Münster, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

IN the telegram which you were so good as to communicate to me last night, it is stated that an armistice of six weeks is "two weeks more than England originally proposed."

The proposal made by Her Majesty's Government on the 1st of September was for "an armistice of not less than a month's duration," and on the 5th of October Sir H. Elliot was again instructed to urge an armistice of "not less than a month."

I have instructed Lord O. Russell to point this out at Berlin, and shall be obliged if you will also assist me in clearing up any misapprehension that may be in the matter.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 464.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 451.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY stated to your Excellency, in the conversation reported in your telegram of the 17th instant, that he wished me to state clearly what course Her Majesty's Government are disposed to maintain and recommend, in order that he might act in concert with them.

Her Majesty's Government have every wish to communicate most frankly with Count Andrassy, and reciprocate his wish for concerted action. It is their desire that you should inform him that, having accepted the proposal of the Porte for an armistice of six months, they will not make any new proposition; but that, if the Porte is willing to reduce the length of the armistice as desired by Russia, Her Majesty's Government will place no obstacles in the way.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 465.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 667.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876.

AT a late hour yesterday evening the German Ambassador informed me that he had received a telegram from Berlin to the following effect:

The German Government had, from the beginning of the Oriental crisis, always had in view as their principal object the maintenance of peace in Europe. They had, in the interest of peace, endeavoured to prevent divisions among the friendly Powers more directly interested in the East, and had always tried to avoid taking any decisive part in favour of any one of the Powers. As far as a general understanding could be obtained, they had joined the others and placed their influence at their disposal; but they had never gone further. They could not now deviate from this line of conduct, and could not take a leading part which the natural position of Germany in the East would not justify, and which might endanger the peace of Europe. Although they were of opinion that an armistice of six months was, apparently, acceptable, and although they would have wished Russia to accept it, they did not think, considering the position which they had hitherto held, that they would be justified in exercising a pressure on the resolutions of other Powers. They considered, however, that an armistice of six weeks, the longest term within which an agreement was to be obtained, and which was only two weeks longer than the term originally proposed by England, might, perhaps, offer some chance of a solution.

Upon the Ambassador communicating to me this telegram, I at once called his attention to the last paragraph, in which it was stated that the period of six weeks was only two weeks longer than the period originally proposed by England. I pointed out to his Excellency that if it was meant by this to state that Her Majesty's Government had proposed an armistice of one month, the statement was founded upon a misconception of

the facts; the proposal made on the 1st of September, and that again made on the 5th of October, having been for an armistice of not less than a month, which was a very different suggestion from that of the limitation of the armistice to one month.

In order that this point may be clearly understood, I should wish your Excellency to explain it to the Imperial Government, and, if you should think it necessary, you are authorized to read the passages in my despatch to Sir H. Elliot No. 543 A of the 1st of September, and in my No. 627 of the 5th of October, in which are contained the instructions given to him as to the duration of the armistice which he was to propose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 466.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 35. Political.)

Canea, Crete, September 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the dismissal of Hamid Bey, and the appointment of his successor; also the election of Judges at Rethymo, with remarks thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 466.

Consul Barker to Sir H. Elliot.

Canea, Crete, September 29, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on Monday the 25th instant by superior orders received from the Porte his Excellency Réoup Pasha signified to Hamid Bey his dismissal from the office of Mahommedan Councillor to the Governor-General of Crete, and this news has created a certain amount of sensation among the Mussulman population, with whom Hamid Bey is very popular, for he is the most influential person in this place, and looked up to as chief of a party. A certain Mustafa Pasha, who has been already in office in Crete discharging other functions, has been named by the Porte as his successor, and he is expected to arrive here very shortly; but I hear his antecedents are by no means good, and that the public will not gain by the change.

At Rethymo the Deputies have elected the Judges of the Courts of law of the First Instance, and have addressed a petition to their Governor, Edhem Pasha, praying that the "Court of Appeal" and the Administrative Council of the Nomarchy, on which depend all the other inferior tribunals, might be instituted, as being of urgent necessity. But the election of Judges for the Court of Appeal can only be made legally by the whole Assembly, and its convocation can only be effected by the Governor-General, but his Excellency Réoup Pasha does not seem inclined to take this step, for reasons he has not made public, but it is thought because his Excellency foresees the measure would lead to prolonged discussion on other subjects which might impede his power of action at this moment, without producing any corresponding benefit to the public service.

This step, however, which is much talked of, and considered by the whole population as very important, cannot be postponed indefinitely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD B. B. BARKER.

P.S. Looking at the political prospect of affairs in Crete, I should say his Excellency Réoup Pasha is very popular at this moment with the Christian population in Crete, and with a portion of the Mussulmans, and his removal would be a great misfortune for the island.

E. B. B. B.

No. 467.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 36. Political.)

Canea, Crete, October 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the removal of Hamid Bey from his post as Councillor to the Governor-General of Crete, and reporting particulars in reference to the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 467.

Consul Barker to Sir H. Elliot.

Canea, Crete, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

BY my last despatch of the 29th ultimo, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that Hamid Bey had been removed from the important post of Mahomedan Councillor to the Governor-General in this island.

Yesterday, profiting by the absence of Réoup Pasha at a village five hours off, Hamid Bey came to the Palace, seated himself in his usual place, and declared he considered himself still in office, until he should receive himself intimation of his dismissal directly from the Grand Vizier, thus committing an overt act of rebellion and defiance to the authority of the Governor-General.

Hamid Bey had, about two months ago, sent in his resignation, which had been forwarded to the Porte by Réoup Pasha; but, as the Divan at Constantinople had not made up its mind who his successor should be, the petition remained unanswered. About a week ago, Réoup Pasha signified to him publicly the Porte's acceptance of his resignation, and the name of his successor.

But the Mahomedan fanatical party who support Hamid Bey did not approve of his resigning his office, because his retirement would deprive them of the power they have exercised in furtherance of their own interests under the ægis of this Chief. They persuaded him to write to Constantinople for a reversal of this sentence the moment it was known here, and as Redif Pasha, his protector (who is known to be inimical to Réoup Pasha), has just come into power, they hope to maintain him and themselves, and to obtain the removal of Réoup Pasha from the Government of Crete, and Hamid Bey openly and to the knowledge of the Governor-General, put his signature to a petition worded to this effect.

After matters have come to this open rupture, and after the public defiance offered to the Governor-General's authority mentioned above, the removal of Hamid Bey becomes a necessity. His continuing in office will paralyse all Réoup Pasha's efforts in the difficult task of administrating this island; and, now that his Excellency has, by a firm but conciliating policy, succeeded in gaining the suffrages of the Christian part of the population, he finds a small but desperate faction of Mahomedans resolved on thwarting all his views and measures, and getting rid of him, in order to leave the field open to the indulgence of those acts of violence and wrong towards the Christians which have kept Crete in a ferment for so many years.

Your Excellency will be able to judge what chances there may be of Redif Pasha's influencing the Grand Vizier; at the same time that the methods adopted in Turkey in such cases are also well known to your Excellency, my duty is to warn, by informing you of the danger attendant on the success at Constantinople of this reactionary fanatical party here, who are not numerous, but bold, desperate, and well versed in all the intrigues which have abetted the maladministration of Pashas since Crete came again under the Sultan's Government, and which have been the original causes of dissatisfaction and the late revolts of the Christian inhabitants.

A good feature in Réoup Pasha's favour is the circumstance that he has not enriched himself during the several years of his administration at different times in this island; on the contrary, I hear he really has debts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 468.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 251.) *Athens, October 9, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 241 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, extracted from the "Messager d'Athènes," an account of the open-air meeting held at Athens on the 1st instant, together with a translation of the speeches delivered on that occasion.

Meetings with a similar object are reported to have been since held in many other towns in Greece, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that great enthusiasm prevailed throughout the country, and that the Government had received a report from the Nomarch at Lamia, stating that at a meeting held at a town near the Turkish frontier, 30,000 drachmas had been subscribed towards the fund for increasing the military strength of Greece.

The Minister of the Interior has, it is stated in the "Stou" newspaper of the 7th instant, addressed a Circular to the Nomarchs and Eparchs throughout the Kingdom, ordering them to commence drilling those who are already enrolled in the National Guard.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 469.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 252. Confidential.) *Athens, October 9, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Contostavlos, in talking to me to-day on the policy of Russia with regard to recent events in Servia, stated that it could only be from her that the proposal of proclaiming Prince Milan King of Servia had emanated; and that he put no faith in the reports published in the papers that the Russian Government was about to prevent volunteers from continuing to enter that Principality. He said that Russia had played a double game ("avait simulé") throughout the whole question, and that she could not be trusted; that she had, moreover, never been friendly to Greece, and had looked with disfavour upon the formation of the kingdom.

"Yet," I remarked, "the last time I saw you, you said that Greece was going to throw herself into the arms of Russia."

To this M. Contostavlos replied that as Greece saw herself rebuffed on all sides, she must place herself at the feet of a Power which would do something for her; but that Russia would not allow of a greater accession of territory to Greece than Thessaly and Epirus, and would never permit Macedonia to form part of the Greek Kingdom.

I cannot say whether the Greek Government has received any promises from Russia, but I think M. Contostavlos' language rather points to that conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 470.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 253.) *Athens, October 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Binney, Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, in a letter dated the 10th instant, reports to me that a meeting was held at Tinos for a similar purpose as those lately held at Athens and the Piræus. I inclose herewith a translation of the Resolutions which were adopted at that meeting.

Mr. Binney further states that there was some intention of holding a meeting at Syra on the 8th instant, with a view also of urging the Government to arm the nation, but as the scheme did not meet with the countenance of all of the principal inhabitants of the island it did not take place; he says, however, that it is rumoured that a meeting is

likely to be held on the 15th instant. He also reports that about twenty-five young men are being drilled daily to become officers of the volunteers, but that the people of Syra have not responded very freely to the invitation of the authorities to enrol themselves in the National Guard.

I have also the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, informs me that a great meeting was announced for last Sunday, the 8th instant, in the public square of that town to express sympathy for the Christians in the Turkish provinces, and the hope that the Great Powers would liberate them from the Turkish yoke. Patras appears, however, to be divided into two political parties, and as one party wished to recommend the necessity of going to war as soon as possible, whilst the other was opposed to that idea, the great meeting did not take place, but a patriotic speech was addressed to an assemblage of about 500 or 600 persons. Mr. Wood states that demonstrations have been held at Pyrgos, Vostitza, and other towns in the Morea in favour of the Christians; but he expresses a doubt as to whether the inhabitants of the Morea will be prepared to make the heavy sacrifices that a war with Turkey would entail.

The Chamber of Deputies, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 246 of the 4th instant, met on the 2nd instant; but it was not till yesterday that a House was formed. The election of a President of the Chamber has not yet taken place, and I do not anticipate that any measures of importance will be presented to the House before the arrival of His Majesty the King, which is looked forward to with much impatience, and which is announced for the middle of next week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 470.

Resolutions of the People of the Island of Tinos.

THE inhabitants of the Island of Tinos, having unanimously and fraternally assembled, hasten to declare that they have heard with inexpressible joy and satisfaction that the Great Powers have been pleased to take into consideration the sacred rights of the Christians who groan under the Turkish rule.

But they cannot for a moment conceal the deep sorrow they feel in seeing that the rights of their co-nationalists, which have been obtained after so many struggles, have not been taken into consideration, for the only reason that our brethren who are under the Turkish yoke, thinking that they should not throw impediment in the peaceable policy of the Powers, have not taken up arms against the Turkish Government.

For this cause, and on account of the sacred obligations the Free Hellenic people owe to their brethren, the meeting of the people has resolved:—

1. The Government is to be urged to submit the rights of our brethren to the Great Powers, and at the same time declare that it is impossible for the people of free Greece to suffer any longer the injustice done to them.

2. To arm the nation quickly, and at any sacrifice.

The Eparch of Tinos is requested to forward these resolutions to the Government.

The Committee of the Meeting of the people of Tinos,

(Signed) C. NAZOS.
JOHN P. GIZIS.
GEO. POLICHRONIADES.
M. TH. DAXIMADIS.

Tinos, September 26, 1876 (o.s.).

No. 471.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 485.) *St. Petersburgh, October 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a leading article from the "Agence Russe," disclaiming in strong terms against the proposed armistice of five months.

I also annex further articles from the same organ, reproducing articles from the "Golos" and the "Novoe Vremia," and the "Moscow Gazette," on the same question,

and an article from the "Russki Mir" on the English press in regard to the future destinies of Constantinople, denouncing in strong language what it styles the "colossal pretensions" of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 471.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Samedi soir, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Octobre. 1876.

ON ignore complètement à St. Pétersbourg, nous comme tout le monde, quel accueil a reçu ou recevra auprès des différentes Puissances—y compris la Russie—la proposition d'armistice de six mois faite par la Turquie aux conditions que l'on connaît. Il est donc facile à un chacun de se prononcer librement sur cette proposition sans crainte de refléter la pensée de tel ou tel Cabinet.

Nous ne voulons d'ailleurs l'envisager qu'à un seul point de vue, celui du droit public international.

D'après tous les auteurs qui ont écrit sur le droit des gens, et d'après tous les usages de la guerre entre nations civilisées, un armistice est une suspension d'hostilités entre deux adversaires qui se font la guerre, et qui, pour telle ou telle raison, spontanément ou à la demande de tiers, conviennent d'arrêter leur action au point où elle s'est trouvée au moment de l'arrangement, pour la reprendre à l'échéance du délai fixé de part et d'autre, si, d'ici là, les deux parties, directement ou par l'entremise de Puissances amies, ne se sont point entendues sur les bases de la paix. L'acte règlant cette suspension stipule le mode et les conditions dans lesquels elle s'effectue militairement, trace la ligne de démarcation entre les deux armées, qui s'obligent à ne pas les dépasser, prévoit enfin et détermine toutes les mesures propres à maintenir à l'armistice son caractère essentiellement conservatoire, dont le principe et l'essence juridique consistent en effet à ce que la réouverture des hostilités, si elle a lieu, trouve les deux parties absolument dans les mêmes conditions de force ou de faiblesse, d'avantages ou d'infériorité, où elles se trouvaient l'une vis-à-vis de l'autre au moment même de la suspension d'armes.

Cela étant, et nous doutons qu'il se trouve de par le monde quelqu'un qui puisse contredire la définition que nous venons de donner de ce qu'est, d'après le droit des gens, un armistice, nous nous demandons comment la Sublime Porte, qui n'est pas sans avoir quelque conseiller connaissant son Vattel, peut concilier sa proposition d'armistice avec les restrictions qu'elle demande à supposer à la Serbie et au Monténégro, et dont elle serait seule dégrévée. Il serait ainsi interdit à ceux-ci de se ravitailler en approvisionnements de vivres, d'armes et de soldats, tandis qu'elle, la Turquie (celle qui égorge, brûle et enclouе les Chrétiens) pourrait, durant six grands mois, faire venir de l'Europe, des coulins de l'Asie et même de l'Afrique, vivres et munitions, armes et soldats, voire même généraux et officiers, sans que ni la Serbie, ni le Monténégro, ni même l'Europe y trouvent à redire.

Que tel soit à Constantinople le système des poids et mesures et la manière de comprendre la justice, cela ne nous étonne pas. Ce qui nous surprendrait davantage, c'est qu'il se trouvât un seul Cabinet, un seul diplomate en Europe pour approuver une aussi complète violation de tous les principes et de toutes les règles du droit des gens.

L'Armistice de Six Mois.—Le "Golos" s'exprime ainsi à propos de l'armistice de six mois proposé par la Turquie :—

"Si la Porte désire sincèrement la paix et comprend l'absolue nécessité d'exécuter toutes les demandes des Puissances, elle ne doit pas redouter un armistice de peu de durée. En cherchant au contraire à prolonger outre mesure une situation incertaine, bien qu'elle assure vouloir même ce temps à profit pour l'introduction des réformes qu'elle promet et projette, et précisément à cause de ces mêmes projets de réformes, qui rappellent de douloureux souvenirs, elle augmente et justifie les plus hostiles défiances." Le "Golos" ajoute que quand bien même cet armistice de six mois viendrait à être accepté, il ne faudrait pas en conclure que la Turquie resterait maîtresse du

terrain politique. Tout armistice peut être rompu et dénoncé, si au cours des négociations il se produit des divergences par trop profondes. Les choses se retrouvent alors dans le même état qu'avant."

Le "Nouveau Temps," parle avec une amère ironie de la proposition de l'armistice de six mois faite par la Turquie :—

"Pourquoi pas six ans, s'écrie-t-on. A tout prendre on a peut-être raison. Ce peut être un utile congé dont la diplomatie se trouvera bien ; dont en tout cas elle a bien besoin. D'une part une année de pourparlers stériles, de phrases sonores, de discours pompeux ; et d'autre part, une année de misères, de calamités, d'oppression, de sauvageries, de combats sanglants, se trouveront ainsi dignement couronnées. Mais ne voit-on pas qu'en acceptant cette combinaison insensée c'est la prolongation du martyr pour ceux qui avaient conservé encore une lueur d'espoir dans l'avenir ?" Le "Nouveau Temps" pense que la Russie ne saurait endurer plus longtemps les lenteurs calculées et les finasseries que l'Empire Ottoman impose à la trop grande crédulité de l'Europe pour se soustraire à ses volontés ou les reculer le plus longtemps possible.

On lit dans la "Gazette de Moscou" :—

"En rejetant les propositions qui lui ont été si délicatement présentées, la Porte lance pour ainsi dire un ultimatum à la tête des six Grandes Puissances. Après avoir refusé les conditions de paix qu'elles lui ont soumises, repoussé également un armistice d'une durée sérieuse de quatre ou six semaines, elle redouble de raillerie en proposant un armistice de six mois. Et cette mauvaise plaisanterie serait à prendre ou à laisser. La Turquie a sans doute besoin de suspendre durant la saison d'hiver une guerre qui lui serait très désavantageuse pendant cette saison. C'est pourquoi elle daigne proposer un armistice qui, s'il n'est pas sérieux, est du moins conforme à ses intérêts." La "Gazette de Moscou" fait ressortir ce qu'une conduite aussi cavalière de la part de la Porte a d'injurieux pour les Puissances, et elle exhorte ces dernières à se réunir bien intimement afin qu'il soit mis une fin à cette ridicule comédie qui peut finir par devenir très dangereuse.

La Presse Anglaise et la Ville de Constantinople.—On lit dans le "Monde Russe" :—

"La question du sort probable de Constantinople commence de nouveau à éclipser celle, plus modeste, mais cependant plus pressante, de l'avenir des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie. La presse Britannique, qui donne habituellement le ton au journalisme du continent, s'occupe à l'heure actuelle des destinées de Stamboul avec le même fracas dont elle fit preuve dernièrement à propos des massacres de Bulgarie. Il est difficile de se figurer des prétentions plus colossales, plus exorbitantes que celles qu'affiche la presse Anglaise relativement à l'antique capitale Byzantine. La sollicitude pour ce port, qui est à l'autre bout de l'Europe, et dont les destins sont reliés si étroitement à l'histoire des peuples de race Greco-Slave, révèle de la part de la dite presse une préoccupation des plus extravagantes quant à la domination exclusive du pavillon Britannique sur toutes les mers. Telle est pourtant la force de l'habitude, des préjugés et des idées préconçues que la presse Européenne tout entière considère naturelle de la part de l'Angleterre cette revendication à la souveraineté maritime, prétention qu'elle condamnerait avec vigueur et sans pitié si elle se manifestait chez tout autre nation. Que dirait-on, par exemple, en Angleterre et ailleurs si l'Allemagne s'avisait de prétendre à la possession des ports de la Hollande ou du Danemark, sous le prétexte qu'ils sont de suprême importance pour le développement du commerce Allemand ; ou bien si l'Italie s'efforçait tout d'un coup d'obtenir la neutralité du détroit de Gibraltar, sous le prétexte qu'elle est la première Puissance maritime de l'Adriatique ? Et cependant l'Allemagne et l'Italie seraient bien plus fondées dans leurs prétentions que l'Angleterre ne l'est relativement au Bosphore. Les Anglais n'ont que faire à l'entrée de la Mer Noire. Leur présence à proximité du détroit qu'ils désignent eux-mêmes comme 'la clef de la Russie,' constituerait pour celle-ci une atteinte au moins tout aussi sensible que celle que produirait l'apparition d'une flotte étrangère dans le canal de la Manche venant surveiller la Grande Bretagne. Personne n'entretient des visées sur les possessions Anglaises, pas plus que sur les routes qui y conduisent ; qu'ils fassent preuve de la

même discrétion à l'égard des possessions des autres. La prétention à la domination exclusive des mers constitue de nos jours une folle insolence. La France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, et la Russie sont également intéressées à couper court aux revendications insultantes pour elles de la Grande Bretagne. Ce n'est pas Constantinople qu'il nous faut, mais bien la liberté du passage à travers le Bosphore et les Dardanelles. La moindre tentative de restreindre cette liberté entraînerait inévitablement une guerre avec la Russie. Nous n'avons déjà que trop montré de réserve en ne protestant pas contre l'apparition de la flotte Anglaise à Bésika, décision qui a été dictée contre nous. Il est à désirer que la Grande Bretagne imite notre modération et ne pousse pas plus loin qu'il ne convient les excitations à notre adresse."

Après avoir donné un aperçu détaillé des dernières opérations militaires en Serbie, le "Monde Russe" en déduit que la situation des Turcs est très-aventurée, fait qu'il corrobore par les observations suivantes :—

"La Grèce commence à se remuer. Elle s'est convaincue que pour participer aux avantages qui peuvent résulter d'un remaniement des choses en Orient, il n'est que temps de produire ses réclamations et au besoin de les affirmer. Voici donc un nouvel auxiliaire à la cause des Chrétiens d'Orient, un ennemi de plus contre les Turcs. Mais ce qui condamne sans appel l'Empire Ottoman, c'est l'incrédulité désormais inébranlable de l'Europe à l'égard de toutes les promesses qu'il peut encore faire."

N.B.—Les journaux Russes d'aujourd'hui, le "Golos" en tête, tombent unanimement contre les conditions mises par la Turquie à l'acceptation par la Serbie de son armistice de six mois, et se demandent jusqu'à quand la Turquie continuera à se moquer, en général, de l'Europe, et, en particulier, de la Russie.

No. 472.

Mr. Erskine to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Stockholm, October 16, 1876.*

THE Danish papers have recently, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, announced that a large order had been given in Scotland for knapsacks on the Swedish pattern, but apparently on Russian account; and a similar assertion has also been made as to a great quantity of blankets and tents purchased in France, for delivery towards the close of this month, as is also pretended, on Swedish account. I yesterday, therefore, asked General Björnstjerna whether he could tell me whether there was any truth in either of these statements.

His Excellency replied that he knew nothing on the subject, except that it was quite untrue that the Swedish Government had given any such orders abroad.

I have thought it right to mention these statements, as the Swedish paper which reproduces them intimates its belief that these orders were probably given through a Swedish firm in order to divert attention from the equipment of the Russian army now in progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 473.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 20, 1876.*

I ARRIVED yesterday.

The Prime Minister has submitted measures to the Chambers for the organization of the land and sea forces, including additional taxation and a loan of 10,000,000 of drachmas, in view of necessary preparations.

A Russian Agent named Volkoff, who came here shortly before the Crimean War, has lately arrived. I shall endeavour to ascertain his object.

No. 474.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20, 1·45 P.M.)

(Télégraphic.) *Vienna, October 20, 1876, 11·15 A.M.*

THE erroneous report which I see has appeared in some of the English journals that an Aide-de-camp of the Emperor Alexander is at Vienna on a diplomatic mission, has arisen from the presence here of Count Wovencoff Dashkoff, with his family, on the way to Nice.

No. 475.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 20, 1876, 12·45 P.M.*

MAY I inform Minister for Foreign Affairs of decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting armistice?

No. 476.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 20, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE informed Russian Ambassador of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the following effect :—

We are not prepared, having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, to withdraw our acceptance or to make any new proposition.

We shall offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but we cannot press the Porte to do so.

No. 477.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 529 A.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 20, 1876.*

AT an interview which I had this day with the Russian Ambassador, I informed his Excellency of the decision of Her Majesty's Government.

I said to Count Schouvaloff that, having accepted the proposal of the Turkish Government for a six months' armistice, we were not prepared to withdraw our acceptance, nor were we disposed to make any new proposition.

I added that, if the Porte is willing to consent to a shorter term, Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection. They cannot, however, press the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 478.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 20, 1876, 4·5 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs, through Baron Orczy, the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the armistice. His Excellency said nothing has been received at the Ministry from Russia since circular proposing six weeks.

Although Austria has sent instructions to Belgrade and Montenegro, recommending the acceptance of the five months' armistice, she has not notified officially her own acceptance of it at Constantinople, and will doubtless therefore now be ready to adopt any concession which the Porte may make to Russia.

* Repeated to Embassies.

Baron Orczy thinks the Porte will accept the term of six weeks with the expression of a hope that the Powers will consent to its being prolonged if the preliminaries of peace are not concluded before its expiration.

He would not speak of the Emperor's letter, but he apparently hopes that Russian intervention may yet be prevented.

No. 479.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

Vienna, October 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Ambassador called and explained, by order of his Government, that the reports lately and still current as to a secret understanding between Austria and Russia were absolutely unfounded. The Austrian Government, Count Beust said, were entirely agreed with that of Her Majesty on the question of the armistice, and there had been no change in their views.

No. 480.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

Foreign Office, October 20, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU may inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs of decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting armistice.

No. 481.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 452.) *Foreign Office, October 20, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and informed me, by order of his Government, that the reports which have been recently, and are still current, as to the existence of a secret understanding between the Austrian and Russian Governments, are absolutely unfounded.

His Excellency assured me that the Austrian Government entirely agreed with that of Her Majesty upon the subject of the armistice, and that their views had not been in any way changed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 482.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received October 20, at night.)

Therapia, October 20, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen General Ignatiew, whose language is very guarded.

He says he has no proposal to make, as his Government adhere to the English demand of an armistice for a month or six weeks, and he has only to hear what the Turks say.

I said that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Porte by agreeing to an armistice of six months had accepted the proposal, which was for one of not less than one month, and that they would make no further proposal.

He said it was preposterous to let a question of peace or war stand over for six months, and that the German Government were of this opinion, having at once declared such an armistice to be utterly absurd. I answered that upon that point my information differed from his.

He said that this was owing to a misapprehension of Lord Odo Russell, for which your Lordship had expressed regret to Prince Gortchakow. I said that I did not refer

* Identic telegrams were sent to Mr. Malet, Sir H. Elliot, Lord A. Loftus, and Lord Odo Russell.
† Repeated to Embassies.

to the report from Lord Odo Russell, but to a despatch which the German Ambassador had communicated to your Lordship in which it was said that the German Government considered a six months' armistice as acceptable, and regretted that all the other Governments did not take the same view of it. He adhered, however, to his statement.

My impression—but it is only an impression—is that he will ask the Porte its intentions with regard to what he will call the English proposal for a short armistice, and that upon receiving as an answer that it cannot be complied with, he will signify the steps which his Government will take in consequence.

No. 483.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 14. Political.) *Corfu, October 17, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch by last week's mail No. 13, Political, I stated, in connection with Mr. Stevens' report of the Zaimi-Roma demonstration at Zante, that Dr. Lombardo was taking measures to get up a meeting of his partizans in a similar sense.

2. Lombardo's demonstration came off on the 9th, and on the 10th ultimo he made his appearance here at Corfu. After conferring with the leaders of the movement party, he left by the Italian steamer the same evening for Naples—as he gave out, but it is strongly suspected that, before returning, he will pay a visit to his old friend Garibaldi at Rome!

3. The fruits of his conference with his political friends here became speedily apparent, for on the 13th instant, a manifesto was issued by the Club, calling a meeting of the inhabitants for the 15th instant (Sunday), to deliberate on the great question of the day, as touching nearly the interests of Hellenism.

4. This project was strongly opposed by all the sensible people of the place, especially by the maritime class, who live by the coasting trade along the shores of Albania, and have no reason to complain against the Turkish authorities with whom they have to deal.

The meeting, however, came off at the appointed time, and I have now the honour to inclose a translated copy of the minutes.

5. The two first speakers—members of the Legislative Assembly, were most loth to appear, and only did so, I believe, from the dread of losing votes at the next election. They expressed themselves in very guarded and moderate terms. Not so the third speaker, who, I am assured, made use of the most violent and intemperate language.

6. Notwithstanding the exultant description given in the minutes of the success of the demonstration, it was a failure. The Nomarch was not present, nor any of the military authorities. It is true that the Greek Archbishop and some of the clergy appeared on the platform, a circumstance exceedingly to be regretted.

Extraordinary precautions for the preservation of order were taken by the civil and military police, and the troops were consigned to barracks till the meeting was over.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 483.

Deliberation of a Meeting held at Corfu on the 15th October, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE meeting of the inhabitants of Corfu which, in terms of the notification of the 13th instant, was held yesterday on the Esplanade, at 4 o'clock P.M., was brilliant beyond all expectation.

At the appointed hour the authorities, the Archbishop, with the clergy, the Chief Rabbi, in full official dress, the Fiscal advocates, the Judges, and the Philharmonic Band appeared on the ground.

It was observed that neither the Roman Catholic Archbishop, nor his clergy, were present. On the contrary, by the most insidious manœuvres they had sought to counteract the noble object of the genuine patriots.

The President of the Committee, Dr. J. Brailu, opened the business of the meeting by the following address :—

"Fellow-citizens!

"In the exercise of an invaluable right, conferred on us by the Constitution, we are assembled here to give expression to our opinions respecting the important national object, the nature of which was explained in the already published notification. I am persuaded that this meeting will be conducted in a peaceable and orderly manner, such as becomes free citizens."

Having thus delivered himself, the President invited M. Polylà to address the assembly. After a brilliant and most effective speech by the member for Corfu, M. Ath. Paramithioti came forward, who no less felicitously treated the subject in hand. Lastly, M. J. Trevisan, late member for the district of Oros, delivered a speech. After which the President submitted to the assembled people the following resolutions, which embrace the substance of the various addresses :—

Resolution.

The Greek citizens assembled in George's Square (Esplanade) reflecting that existing circumstances call for, and the national traditions impose as a duty, more energetic action in asserting the interests of Hellenism, unanimously declare :—

1. The Government earnestly is requested to make energetic representations to the Great Powers, that along with other subjects occupying their deliberations, the rightful claims of the Greek race may receive their serious attention.

2. The constituted authorities of the State are urged to take immediate measures for a more extensive development of the national forces by sea and by land, so as to be sufficient for the defence of the country, and the assertion of the high national rights.

3. The above resolutions adopted by the meeting shall be forwarded through the local administrative authorities to the Government.

Done at Corfu, this $\frac{1}{13}$th October, 1876.

The Members of the Directing Committee,

(Signed) J. BRAILAS, *President.*
A. PARAMITHIOTIS.
A. DE SEMOS.
A. CASTAMONITIS.
J. KOSKINAS.

(Signed) N. K. KALOGEROS, *Secretary.*

No. 484.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 382.)

My Lord, *Rome, October 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from the "Italie" newspaper upon the polemic which has been going on lately between the press of Italy and Austria on the subject of alleged desires on the part of Italy to acquire certain territories at present belonging to Austria.

Signor Melegari has informed me that it is difficult to conceive the amount of annoyance and embarrassment which this journalistic warfare had caused the Government. He said it had been begun by the "Opinione" newspaper, which, as I was aware, was an opposition newspaper, and that he could only suppose it was done with an electioneering view. It was foreseen that to start such a subject must arouse questions fraught with danger to the peaceful aspirations of the Government, and that having destroyed the previous happy repose, the opposition newspapers would ask where was now the calm which the present Government had inherited from their predecessors, and which was so necessary to the welfare of the Kingdom. His Excellency said, however, that he hoped that the evil blood which had been stirred was subsiding, and that the relations between Austria and Italy were returning to the friendly footing which had been momentarily disturbed by this unfortunate affair.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Extract from "L'Italie" of October 17, 1876.

LES CONVOITISES ITALIENNES.—LE mot d'ordre qui circule en ce moment en Europe, c'est d'attaquer l'Italie au sujet de ses convoitises. Le premier cri d'alarme est parti des colonnes de la "Presse" et de la "Neue Freie Presse" de Vienne. Ces deux journaux, prenant pour prétexte une phrase de "l'Opinione," assez peu conforme d'ailleurs à sa prudence traditionnelle, s'empressèrent d'avertir l'Empire Austro-Hongrois que l'Italie se préparait à s'annexer le Trentin et la rive droite de l'Isonzo.

Le feu une fois ouvert, on n'a épargné aux Italiens ni les paroles aigres ni les querelles d'Allemands. Si le Roi Victor Emmanuel lui-même avait prononcé dans quelque circonstance solennelle les paroles publiées par "l'Opinione," la rumeur qui s'est élevée des rives bleues du Danube n'aurait probablement pas été plus grande, et cependant "l'Opinione" n'a parlé qu'en son propre nom dans un pays où la presse est absolument libre; on sait aussi que, par les temps qui courent, "l'Opinione" est loin d'être un organe officieux!

Quant à nous, nous le déclarons franchement: tant que les choses sont restées renfermées dans ces limites, nous n'avons pas voulu envenimer une polémique aussi délicate par sa nature; nous avons cru opportun de garder le silence, comme tous nos confrères Italiens.

Mais cette prudente réserve de notre presse ne faisait peut-être pas le compte de certains politiques de Vienne, qui supposant, non sans raison, que tout le monde en Europe ne comprend pas l'Allemand et ne lit pas la "Presse" et la "Neue Freie Presse," ont cherché à élargir le cercle de la puérilité de leurs élucubrations. Il faut avouer qu'ils ont trouvé dans certains journaux Parisiens de complaisants alliés qui, pour bien faire les choses, ont ajouté pour leur propre compte, aux convoitises reprochées à l'Italie, d'autres convoitises moins admissibles encore, comme celle de la Tunisie, par exemple. Ici nous devons remercier nos confrères de France de ne pas avoir mis Nice, la Savoie ou le Dauphiné à la place de la Tunisie. Mais peut-être que cela viendra plus tard.

Nous avons laissé passer les articles des journaux Français comme nous avions laissé passer les articles des journaux Autrichiens. "L'Opinion" seule y répondait, il y a trois jours; elle se trouvait directement en cause.

Mais les fameuses convoitises de l'Italie ne s'arrêtèrent pas à Paris, elles passèrent la Manche et devinrent la facile proie des journaux, le "Times" en tête. D'après le "Times" lui-même et ses confrères, l'Italie a décidément une attitude hostile envers l'Autriche-Hongrie, elle est encouragée dans cette attitude par la Russie, avec laquelle elle est en complet accord, pour ne pas dire que les deux Puissances ont signé et paraphé déjà une alliance offensive et défensive.

Franchement, si au début il y avait des raisons de regretter toutes les malveillantes insinuations répandues contre nous, les choses en sont arrivées aujourd'hui à un tel point qu'il n'y a plus qu'à en rire. Et les étrangers établis parmi nous, les Autrichiens les premiers, seront forcés de partager notre hilarité. Ils sont, en effet, tout à fait à même de juger, par leurs propres yeux, si les Italiens s'agitent pour le Trentin et pour l'Isonzo; si les sentiments les plus bienveillants envers l'Autriche-Hongrie ne sont pas ceux de la grande majorité des Italiens; si, en un mot, il existe chez nous le moindre indice des convoitises qu'on nous reproche.

Pourquoi donc tant de bruit au-delà de nos frontières? On ne fait jamais rien pour rien; on n'émeut pas par des moyens artificieux l'opinion publique sans avoir un but. Quel peut donc être le but que s'est proposé ce que nous appelerons le Comité Mystérieux de Vienne, en faisant croire en Autriche et ailleurs à des intentions et à des faits imaginaires à notre charge?

Peut-être nous sera-t-il donné de l'apprendre plus tard; mais, parmi les conjectures possibles, ne pourrait-on pas supposer que les grands politiques de Vienne dont nous parlions plus haut veulent attribuer à l'Italie des convoitises qui n'existent pas, uniquement pour justifier leurs propres convoitises, qui, celles-là, semblent bien réelles?

No. 485.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 23.*)

(No. 76. Political.) *Salonica, October 5, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report of this date, to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

THE public mind in this town is again distracted and harrassed by false rumours and wilful misrepresentations artfully circulated for the purpose of encouraging local discord and sedition. Last week there was a sort of panic in the place, caused by the report that the Mahomedans were preparing to massacre the Christians. I am happy to say that the report turned out to be as idle as it was causeless; and I am satisfied from all I hear and observe that there is no present danger of a fanatical outbreak in this town. But these recurring reports of impending massacres do a vast amount of mischief; they disturb and unsettle the minds of the inhabitants and generate mutual suspicions and animosity between Christians and Mahomedans, which may be productive of serious consequences, especially at the present time, when the hopes of the Greeks are encouraged, and the feelings of the Turks excited and irritated by passing events and by the growing impression that they, the Turks, are to be driven out of the country by the combined action of the European Powers. The leading men among the Turks in this and other towns of my district have held private meetings, I am told, to protest against the acceptance by the Porte of terms of peace that may affect the integrity of the Empire, and the rights and status of their co-religionists in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, which they are determined to defend, they say, to the last extremity.

I also gather, from all I hear, that the Turks begin to watch with uneasiness the attitude and proceedings of the Greek Government, and to suspect that the recent revival of brigandage in the Turkish frontier provinces is connected with some preconcerted political movement.

I cannot say how far their apprehensions are justified; but the impression gains ground here that if the right of self-government is conceded to Bulgaria, the Greeks and their Government will not remain quiet till the same concession is granted to Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia.

Greeks arriving here from Athens descant on what they term the "disinterested" neutrality of their Government in the present war; and are under the impression, and expect that the European Powers will oblige the Porte to reward them by some large concessions in behalf of their coreligionists.

They say that by their social and intellectual improvement, and by remaining quiet and not taking any part in insurrectionary movements, the Christians in these subject provinces have shown themselves fit to assume self-government; and that they are far more deserving than the Bulgarians of the sympathy and assistance of the European Powers.

On the other hand, the Christian population in the rural districts of Macedonia continue to hold a passive attitude in the present crisis; and I gather from the accounts which I receive from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter and Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, that the Christians in Thessaly and Epirus are quiet, and do not reveal any agitation or offensive designs against Ottoman authority.

But if these provinces do not evince a disposition to avail themselves of the present complications to clamour for political rights, there is some reason to apprehend that the Greeks on the other side of the border, who all along have been confidently expecting to profit by these complications, will take the initiative themselves, and try to get up an enthusiasm and agitation in favour of those they call their oppressed brethren.

If such a movement is got up, we may expect to see these provinces become the theatre of very serious disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 486.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 77. Political.) *Salonica, October 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of the 9th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the news spread here of popular excitement in Greece in connection with Eastern affairs, and suggesting that the British Vice-Consulate at Prevesa should be removed to Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 486.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, October 9, 1876.

Sir,

THE news is spread here that there is great popular excitement in Greece in connection with Eastern affairs; that the Greeks are arming, and that the drilling of young men is actively carried on in the principal towns.

The Porte appears to be aware of this state of affairs, as last night and this morning telegrams were wired through Salonica from the Seraskier to the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly and Epirus, making pressing inquiries as to the number of troops, military stores and supplies available for active service in these provinces.

So far no signs of disaffection have manifested themselves in Macedonia, and I do not think that the Christian inhabitants of this province are ready or inclined to rise.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to suggest that Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney should be instructed to remove the British Vice-Consulate at Prevesa to Janina.

Janina being the chief town of Epirus, and the seat of the Governor-General of that province, Mr. Blakeney's services may be far better utilized there than at Prevesa. At Janina he will have more opportunities of watching and reporting upon all points of interest, especially in connection with the social and political movements that may be at work in those parts.

I would also suggest that this Consulate should be supplied with copies of an electric telegraphic code, to be employed as occasion may require for secret correspondence with the British Vice-Consuls in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 487.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 21.*)

(No. 78. Political.) *Salonica, October 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, an extract from a letter which I have just received from my correspondent at Niausta,* a district in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 487.

Mr. Cummings to Consul Blunt.

Niausta, October 9, 1876.

(Extract.)

I AM glad if you found what I wrote you lately of any use. Since then everything has been quiet here.

* An English gentleman who has been three years in this country.

I believe the general feeling of the Christian inhabitants here is this:—

That if peace is made now their situation under Turkish rule will be bettered thereby; but if the war continues and the Turks are victorious they will be sufferers afterwards from over-rule. On the other hand, should the Turks get the worst of the struggle they (the Turks) would revenge themselves — vent their feelings — on the Christians here. The Turks living here, at Niansta (not a tenth part of the population), would welcome with gladness the news of a permanent peace. You will understand I am only giving you what I think are the views of the people here, and not my own. The Turkish inhabitants are all of the poorer classes; and I can see for myself that the best good feeling and harmony exists between them and the Christians.

It is against the Mudir that one hears complaints.

I paid him a visit and while I was there they were calling up some of the inhabitants to go and hunt the brigands. One man who pleaded some excuse he abused before everyone, calling him a "dog," &c.

No. 488.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received October* 21, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1876, 9·40 P.M.

GENERAL IGNATIEW speaking of Conference says that, although your Lordship had proposed that it should be held at Constantinople, the Russian Government wished it to take place elsewhere, and that he himself was strongly of opinion that this would not be the best place.

I greatly doubt his sincerity; but I myself see many objections, very different from those which could influence him, against Conference at Constantinople.

German Ambassador is absolutely subservient to General Ignatiew; Austrian Ambassador, although awake to Russian designs, has always been personally very much under his influence; French Ambassador's feelings against Turks would make him lean towards everything calculated to humiliate or cripple them; and the equivocal attitude of Italian Government makes it impossible to calculate on the support of their Minister. I should thus have the prospect of being left alone in most matters on which a difference of opinion arose.

I told General Ignatiew that I was not aware of your Lordship having suggested a Conference at Constantinople, or one from which Turks were to be excluded, as the Russian Government seemed to wish.

No. 489.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21, 2·53 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1876, 10·30 P.M.

I FIND, from General Ignatiew, that he conceives the duty of a Conference would be to concert the measures for giving effect to the administrative autonomy to be granted to the insurgent provinces, and the guarantees to be found for ensuring to the Christians their full execution.

He pointed to appointment of an International Commission of Control for this purpose. The objections to this are very great.

Porte would not be likely to consent to it except under the pressure of material force, and the measure, if adopted, would, in my opinion, be more injurious than beneficial.

It must be applied to the Greek as well as to the Slav Provinces.

Much of the maladministration of provinces is the result of weakness of the Government, and this would be increased tenfold if the authorities are subjected to a foreign Commission of Control. Candidates for office would place themselves under the patronage of one or the other Commissioner, and a system of intrigue would soon arise, which would render all government impossible.

It might be proper to intimate to the Porte that the engagement taken by the Powers by the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, not to interfere between the Sultan and his subjects, was taken on the faith of certain promises which have not been kept,

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

and that till those promises are fulfilled the Powers will not consider themselves bound by it; but any attempt either to draw up a form of administration or directly to superintend its application would, I am convinced, lead to bad results.

No. 490.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 21, 1876.

INTELLIGENCE has been received here of the capitulation of Medun.

No. 491.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 21, 1876, 1 P.M.

IMPERIAL Ministry published immediately my intended departure for Livadia, and it has produced a good impression.

Please answer my previous telegram as to my departure.

No. 492.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 21, 1876, 12·55 P.M.

SURRENDER of Medun reported from Montenegro.

Turkish Commander-in-chief has withdrawn his head-quarters from territory of Montenegro near Spuz to Podgoritza.

No. 493.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 21, 1876.

IN addition to proposed loan of 10,000,000 fr. mentioned in my telegram of yesterday, the Prime Minister informed the Chamber that he was endeavouring to raise a loan of 50,000,000 fr., to be employed exclusively in the purchase of ships and war materials, and to be kept apart from the Budget.

No. 494.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

I APPROVE your language to General Ignatiew respecting the armistice as reported in your telegram of yesterday's date.

No. 495.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 913.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 862 of the 12th instant, reporting a conversation which had taken place on that morning between yourself and the Duc Decazes on the subject of the proposed Conference on the Eastern question, and I

have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 496.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 655.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency addressed to the Sultan on the occasion of your presenting your credentials, a copy of which is inclosed in your No 1105 of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 497.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 656.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's No. 1126 of the 9th instant, and I approve your supporting Mr. Baring's suggestion for a further examination respecting the conflicting accounts of the loss of life at Batak.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 657. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having strongly urged on the Sultan the importance of accepting the proposals of peace made by them, and for the immediate conclusion of an armistice, as reported in your No. 1119, Confidential, of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 499.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 658.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the language which you held to the Sultan at your private audience upon the late atrocities in Bulgaria, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 1117 of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 500.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 659.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your No. 1107 of the 5th instant, I have to convey to your Excellency my approval of the note which you addressed to Mr. Maynard in reply to his letter of the 30th of September, respecting the journey of Mr. Schuyler to Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 501.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 505.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 371 and 372, Confidential, of the 14th instant, reporting a conversation which you had held on the same morning with Signor Melegari in regard to the objections entertained by the Italian Government to a six months' armistice; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 502.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 21, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Paris, October 21, 1876.

I HAVE communicated to Duc Decazes the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the armistice.

He says that he himself has never sent any instruction to Constantinople in answer to Turkish proposal of armistice of six months.

He desires to ask you what will be the attitude of England if Russia actually invades Turkey.

No. 503.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 21, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 21, 1876, 9·15 A.M.

IN the event of Russia threatening an occupation of a Turkish province or any other act of hostility, would it not be advisable for me to advise Porte to appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris?

No. 504.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 21, 1876, 11·20 A.M.

WHEN it appeared that the Prince of Montenegro was disposed to accept the armistice, the Austrian Ambassador and myself recommended the Porte to profit by the jealousy caused in Montenegro by the late proclamation of Prince Milan as King of the Servians, and to endeavour to treat separately with him for peace.

I have now received a message from the Porte showing an anxiety to negotiate peace with Montenegro, and asking whether it could be facilitated through a British Agent.

I returned no answer, and with the prospect of active Russian support to the Slav

* Repeated to Embassies.

cause it may be hopeless to attempt to detach Montenegro from Servia; but Monson might perhaps be directed to sound Prince Nicholas.

No. 505.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 1138.) *Therapia, October 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 607 of the 28th ultimo, I had already spoken at the Porte against the appointment of Hakki Pasha as Governor-General of Widdin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 506.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 1144.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE inclosed note from the Porte conveys its consent to the conclusion of a regular armistice with Servia and Montenegro.

Your Lordship will also observe that the Turkish Government, in signifying this decision, state that they do so "en prenant acte" of the proposals of the Powers for the re-establishment of peace with those Principalities on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and declaring themselves always ready to accept the decision of the Powers on the conditions proposed by the Porte.

The Porte considers that the approach of the winter makes it desirable that the armistice should be for a longer period than that suggested by the Powers, and that it ought to extend to the end of March.

This is not put forward as a condition of the acceptance, but is stated as the view of the Porte, and is in itself so reasonable that little can be fairly urged against it.

A short time ago the Russian Government proposed that the armistice should be for three months, while Her Majesty's Government proposed that it should be indefinite, and it cannot be supposed that the Mediating Powers, after once having taken in hand the conclusion of a peace, can contemplate the renewal of hostilities.

Indeed, when the question of the length of the armistice was on one occasion being discussed by my colleagues, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was advocating the longer period, observed that the advantage of it would be to allow the season while hostilities were practicable to pass, and that the negotiations of peace and of the arrangements for the insurgent Provinces could, if necessary, be carried on through the whole winter.

The Porte asks the Mediating Powers to name their Commissioners for arranging the armistice as quickly as possible.

It might have been better to have omitted the paragraph expressing the hope that measures would be taken to prevent the influx of foreign volunteers and the continued introduction of arms and ammunition into Servia, as being liable to give offence in certain quarters, and calculated to increase the difficulty of obtaining the acception of Servia.

The proposal is in itself perfectly reasonable, although the Porte would have acted more prudently in making it to the different Governments through its Ambassadors, instead of putting it into the present note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 506.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Sublime Porte, le 12 Octobre, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LA Sublime Porte a pris en sérieuse considération la proposition des Puissances médiatrices touchant la conclusion d'un armistice régulier ayant pour but d'amener la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Dans sa communication du 14 Septembre, la Sublime Porte avait fait connaître aux Gouvernements amis les raisons qui, eu égard aux termes auxquelles la question de la paix elle-même était ramenée, rendaient superflue la conclusion d'un armistice en règle.

Prenant acte aujourd'hui de la proposition des Puissances pour le rétablissement de la paix avec la Serbie et le Monténégro sur la base du *statu quo ante* et tout en se déclarant toujours prêt à accepter la décision des Puissances au sujet des conditions proposées par lui dans sa susdite communication, le Gouvernement Impérial n'hésite pas à donner son consentement à la conclusion d'un armistice régulier.

Il est, toutefois, aisé de reconnaître que vu l'approche de la mauvaise saison, il y a lieu de prolonger la durée de l'armistice au delà du minimum demandé par les Puissances. Aussi la Sublime Porte croit-elle qu'il doit comprendre une durée de six mois commençant le 1er Octobre et finissant le 31 Mars (v. s.).

Il dépend maintenant des dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances Médiatrices de hâter la suspension des hostilités en désignant le plus tôt possible leurs délégués pour régler l'armistice sur les lieux.

La Sublime Porte donnera immédiatement, de son côté, les instructions nécessaires aux Commandants des troupes Impériales, et les délégués des Puissances auront à s'entendre avec eux, ainsi qu'avec les chefs militaires des deux Principautés, sur les détails pratiques, en tenant compte des exigences stratégiques et de la nécessité de ne point laisser réoccuper par les Serbes les points qui sont actuellement en la possession des armées Ottomanes.

Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments de haute équité des Puissances Médiatrices, la Sublime Porte aime à croire, en outre, qu'elles voudront prendre des mesures efficaces et immédiates pour empêcher, dans l'intervalle, l'introduction d'armes et de munitions de guerre dans les Principautés et pour mettre définitivement un terme à l'affluence des volontaires qui viennent du dehors pour prendre une part active à la lutte. Il y a là un fait anormal qui alarme l'opinion publique en même temps qu'il cause au Gouvernement Impérial les plus graves préjudices. Sa continuation amènerait infailliblement des complications sérieuses et rendrait inutiles les efforts pacifiques que l'on a en vue de seconder.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est en même temps persuadé que les Puissances Médiatrices, en faisant comprendre aux deux Principautés la nécessité de respecter religieusement dans l'avenir les obligations imposées par l'armistice, sauront les détourner de toute tentative qui aurait pour effet d'encourager directement ou indirectement les mouvements insurrectionnels dans les provinces limitrophes et de fournir des secours aux insurgés.

En précisant ainsi sa pensée, la Sublime Porte espère avoir donné aux Puissances Médiatrices une preuve de plus de son désir d'entourer l'armistice qu'elle vient d'accepter de toutes les garanties qui sont indispensables pour la réalisation des intentions amicales qui en ont déterminé la conclusion. Elle conserve l'assurance que, s'inspirant toujours des mêmes sentiments de sollicitude pour tout ce qui tient à l'honneur, à la dignité, et à l'indépendence de l'Empire, les Puissances sauront mettre de côté tout ce qui pourrait soulever des obstacles à l'œuvre si désirée de la pacification définitive.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 507.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 1145.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of an official note sent to me by the Porte for communication to Her Majesty's Government, setting forth the reforms in the administration which are immediately to be carried out.

The creation of a Senate and of a Representative Assembly in the Capital is certainly a startling innovation in this country, and many doubts will be entertained as to the manner in which such institutions are likely to work, but there cannot be much doubt that they will act as a useful control upon the irresponsible action of the different Departments of the State which has hitherto prevailed.

The organization of the Provisional Administration is, however, the part of the

scheme upon which the prosperity and future condition of the population will mainly depend.

In endeavouring to apply a new organization to the whole Empire instead of granting exceptional privileges only to such Provinces as have risen in insurrection, I am convinced that the Porte adopts the only course that could be followed with safety, and without the certainty of giving rise to fresh movements in the less privileged Provinces, and of increasing the strong animosity already existing between the rival Christian races.

I am also strongly of opinion, in common, I believe, with most of those persons who have bestowed attention on the subject, that the extension and real application of the Law of the Vilayets will offer a better prospect than any other scheme that has been proposed of leading to a better Provincial Administration, and to the improvement of the condition of the people.

This is stated to be the present aim of the Government, which, by a new law, proposes to insure the execution of the Law of the Vilayets with a large extension of the rights of election, and by the adoption of the practical reforms which were suggested for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Elective General Councils will have the duty of watching over the execution of the laws, which during the time that they are not sitting, will devolve on elective "Conseils d'Administration," which will control the authorities, and check arbitrary proceedings on their part.

Other measures are also announced, for putting an end to the constant changes of the public functionaries, for improving the system of levying the taxes, for developing the municipalities and making over to them a portion of the public revenues, and for the reorganization of the police.

If these last-named measures are carried out, a great and undoubted relief to the people may be expected from them.

I will not follow the note through the recapitulation of what had been promised in the note of the 13th of February last, but I may state that the organisation which it is proposed to give to the Provinces confers upon them, to as large an extent as is probably practicable, the control over the local authorities, and even the management of their own affairs, which was demanded by your Lordship's proposals in favour of the insurgent Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 507.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Sublime Porte, le 12 Octobre, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LA première pensée de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, mon auguste Maître, en montant sur le Trône de ses glorieux ancêtres, a été d'inaugurer dans le système général du Gouvernement de l'Empire, ainsi que dans l'administration des provinces, une série de réformes de nature à satisfaire aux besoins des populations et à répondre aux exigences de l'époque.

Expression fidèle de la volonté Souveraine le Hatt promulgué immédiatement après le nouveau règne en signalant les lacunes du passé indiquait que la réforme à accomplir devait avoir pour but de faire cesser le pouvoir arbitraire des Agents de l'Administration et de fermer ainsi la porte aux abus.

Cette pensée est déjà en voie d'être réalisée, et le Gouvernement Impérial s'estime heureux de pouvoir annoncer dès aujourd'hui les mesures qui viennent d'être arrêtées et décrétées dans cet ordre d'idées. Résultat de cette même sollicitude bienveillante qui, il y a vingt ans, inspira les réformes dont toute l'Europe avait constaté la haute valeur, elles répondent pleinement aux vœux exprimés par les Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte. Elles présentent ce même caractère de spontanéité et d'indépendance qui avait été constaté dans l'acte solennel qui règle encore la situation en Orient.

Il y a dix ans l'organisation donnée au vilayets vint consacrer pour la première fois le principe de la participation de la population aux affaires publiques, des Conseils Administratifs composés des habitants de toutes les classes furent institués aux chefs-lieux des vilayets et des leurs dépendances; le contrôle des actes des fonctionnaires publics et le jugement de ceux d'entre eux qui reconnaîtraient leurs devoirs faisaient

partie intégrante des attributions essentielles de ces Conseils. La même loi décrétait la convocation au chef-lieu de chaque vilayet d'un Conseil-Général élu également par le vote populaire; la session annuelle de cette Assemblée était fixée à quarante jours, et consacrée à la discussion de toutes les questions ayant trait à l'amélioration de l'état général de la province; quant aux résolutions adoptées, le Conseil Général jouissait de la faculté de les soumettre à la Sublime Porte par l'entremise de délégués par lui désignés.

Malheureusement ces mesures, excellentes en elles-mêmes, si elles ont pu prévenir bienteoup de mal, n'ont pu produire tout le bien qu'on aurait été en droit d'en attendre si elles avaient été pleinement appliquées, et si sur plusieurs points elles n'avaient rencontré des obstacles insurmontables dans les dispositions qui caractérisaient alors le régime déchu. L'instabilité à laquelle les fonctions publiques se sont vues un moment en butte ne tarda pas à prouver d'un autre côté que l'état de mal aise général dont toutes les provinces de l'Empire se sont, il faut bien le reconnaître, ressenties plus ou moins, tenait aussi essentiellement aux conditions mêmes de l'administration centrale.

Le remède aux imperfections existantes devrait être évidemment cherché dans la création d'un organisme nouveau qui en retenant du passé tout ce dont l'expérience avait constaté d'efficacité, permettrait de placer au centre même un système en harmonie avec les institutions provinciales et capable de donner à celles-ci l'essor et le développement auxquels elles sont appelées. C'est cette pensée qui a dominé le nouveau travail de réorganisation tel qu'il a été arrêté en Conseil Extraordinaire et sanctionné par Sa Majesté Impériale.

Une Assemblée Générale composée de membres élus par les habitants des vilayets et de la capitale, sera convoquée à Constantinople. Cette Assemblée, dont la session annuelle sera de trois mois, aura pour mandat de voter les lois, les impôts et les budgets de l'Empire.

Une autre Assemblée, dont les membres seront nommés par l'Etat, sera investie dans les limites restreintes et bien délimitées des attributions d'un Sénat.

Les détails relatifs à la constitution de ces deux grands corps d'Etat seront régiés par une loi spéciale qui est en voie d'élaboration.

L'organisation de l'Administration des Provinces marchera de pair avec celle des autorités placées au centre. Elle puisera ses principes dans les institutions des Etats les mieux partagés sous ce rapport. La nouvelle loi y relative assurera l'exécution de tout ce qui se trouve actuellement dans la Loi des Vilayets en étendant dans une large mesure le droit d'élection et comprendra en même temps les réformes pratiques qu'on aurait voulu voir introduites dans les provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine. En même temps qu'elle sauvegardera les intérêts de chaque province elle servira de fondement à tout l'édifice gouvernemental.

Les Conseils Généraux des Provinces auront le droit de veiller à l'exécution des lois et des règlements; mais afin de ne pas laisser le pouvoir exécutif sans contrôle dans l'intervalle des différentes sessions, cette tâche sera dévolu aux Conseils d'Administration qui, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de le dire plus haut, tirent leur origine de l'élection populaire. Ils auront à expédier les affaires qui rentrent dans les attributions des Conseils Généraux et à surveiller les agents de l'administration locale de manière à ce qu'ils ne s'écartent pas des dispositions des lois et des règlements et ne se laissent point entraîner à des actes arbitraires.

Indépendamment des amendements que la Loi des Vilayets subira dans ce sens et qui en feront une nouvelle œuvre, une série de mesures non moins importantes a fait l'objet des délibérations les plus sérieuses. Il s'agit d'assurer la stabilité aux fonctions publiques; de les confier à des mains compétentes, conformément aux dispositions expresses du Hatt Impérial, d'améliorer le mode d'assiette et de perception des impôts tant à Constantinople que dans les Provinces; d'imprimer aux cercles municipaux tout le développement qu'ils comportent; de leur affecter une partie des revenus publics; de réorganiser la police; de réaliser d'autres objets subsidiaires; en un mot, de faire passer dans le domaine des faits et de la réalité tous les progrès que peut procurer une organisation provinciale aussi complète que possible.

Par ce qui précède votre Excellence sera à même d'apprécier combien est large et compréhensif le point de vue auquel le Gouvernement Impérial s'est placé en édictant les nouvelles réformes. Pour s'en convaincre il suffirait d'ailleurs de se reporter au contenu de la note du Gouvernement Impérial en date du 13 Février, 1876, relative aux Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Le premier point avait trait à la liberté des cultes. Or, indépendamment des ordres et des Firmans Impériaux qui assurent la pleine et entière jouissance de cette

liberté, il est évident que les Conseils Généraux et les Conseils Administratifs de ces deux Provinces, une fois en possession de leurs attributions, sauront écarter tout obstacle, s'il en existe, à ce que tous les habitants de ces provinces soient placés sous ce rapport sur le pied d'une égalité parfaite.

Le second point se rattachait à l'amélioration du régime de la propriété foncière. Mais le droit de posséder des immeubles de toute nature étant aujourd'hui assuré non seulement à tous les sujets Ottomans mais aussi aux étrangers dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire, la clause spéciale à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine ne saurait avoir quelque utilité qu'en ce qui concerne des plus locaux qu'il dépendra entièrement de ses mêmes Conseils de faire disparaître s'ils existent.

La suppression du système de l'affermage des dîmes confirmée par l'expérience des deux dernières années est déjà un fait acquis. L'affectation d'une partie des revenus publics aux besoins locaux sera réalisée par la mise à exécution du nouveau plan d'organisation des municipalités dans toutes les Provinces.

Quant à l'exécution des victimes de l'insurrection, et à la reconstruction de leurs habitations, cette question ayant un caractère à la fois spécial et exceptionnel pour les deux Provinces sus-mentionnées et les instructions y relatives ayant été déjà transmises aux autorités locales, il sera procédé sans retard à leur exécution aussitôt que les réfugiés commenceront à rentrer dans leurs foyers.

Les Conseils d'Administration des Provinces composés ainsi de manière à renfermer dans leur sein les éléments d'une représentation permanente de la population, rempliront d'ailleurs, par la nature même de leurs attributions, les fonctions qui avaient été dévolues extraordinairement aux Commissions dites d'exécution pour les Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Ramenées à un même principe supérieur, les différentes réformes arrêtées par le Gouvernement Impérial se trouvent ainsi co-ordonnées en un tout homogène. Le fonctionnement de la nouvelle loi sur l'organisation des Provinces et qui fait une part si large aux Conseils locaux, au lieu de constituer des privilèges d'exception, au lieu de provoquer chez les uns des espérances fallacieuses, chez les autres des découragements immérités, au lieu d'accentuer par là les divisions déjà si regrettables entre les différentes classes des sujets d'un même Empire, et d'augmenter les embarras et les difficultés, donne partout satisfaction aux besoins généralement sentis d'une amélioration radicale et offrent aussi des garanties suffisantes de bonne administration.

En notifiant à votre Excellence les nouvelles institutions dont Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de doter l'Empire, je la prie de les porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 508.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 1147.) *Therapia, October 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1090 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Rustchuk and Galatz, in answer to my inquiries respecting the alleged outrages committed by Turks in the Dobrudscha and in other parts of Bulgaria.

I would call your Lordship's particular attention to that part of Mr. Reade's despatch in which he states that the "expected massacres" will only occur if the Mussulmans are given reason to believe that they are to be turned out of Europe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 508.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

WHEN I had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 19th ultimo, transmitting, for a Report from me, two memorandums communicated to your Excellency, of alleged outrages by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians in the Dobrudja and other parts of Bulgaria, a gentleman of great experience in this vilayet, and particularly in the Dobrudja, informed me that he was going to the Dobrudja, and would make every inquiry

or me respecting the memorandum relating to that district, and as several Bulgarians of good standing here daily expected from the vicinity of the parts which the other memorandum related to, I thought it better to wait and avail myself of these circumstances.

In the meantime I made inquiries amongst my colleagues and others who have weekly communication with those districts.

The gentleman above-mentioned having returned from the Dobrudja, and the Bulgarians expected from the other districts having arrived, I am now enabled to furnish your Excellency with the result of my inquiries.

First, with regard to the Dobrudja, I am informed by all those I have mentioned that the statements in the memorandum relating thereto they consider to be at variance with the truth. Several cases of violence have occurred there, but in conflicts with brigands and robbers, such as may occur in many other parts of Turkey. No one of them has heard of violation of women or burning of villages, nor that any girls have been publicly offered for sale in the Dobrudja, and several of my colleagues inform me that if what are now termed "atrocities" had occurred, they certainly would have heard of them from their subordinates there.

The British Vice-Consuls in the district have been directed to instantly report to me any such occurrences; they have never done so, and consequently I can assert that the memorandum must be a fabrication.

I must, however, state that the Dobrudja at this moment is lamentably short of police and military, and that consequently the public security is very unsatisfactory; but this also applies to almost all the rest of the vilayet, as I have already had the honour to report to your Excellency.

Respecting what is alleged as having occurred at Kizil Murad, in the district of Rasgrad, this also is at variance with facts. One or two disputes and consequent conflicts have taken place, in which several persons have been killed; but these were not of the "atrocity" class, but attributable to the fanatical negligence and weak position of the authorities, from the small number of police at their disposal.

With regard to the other Memorandum, Gagulu is only about an hour's distance from this. I have been there, and have only learnt that some months ago a quarrel occurred between two peasants, in which one was wounded, and the aggressor arrested.

As regards the alleged frequent robberies, this I believe to be true, and is attributable to the negligence of the authorities and the inefficiency of the police; and from what I constantly hear, it is certainly high time for the Porte to press the Vali here on the subject. If this were done, and he held responsible, we should soon hear of a state of things different to what at present exists in this vilayet.

There are, moreover, armed Circassians still moving about the country. I have seen several myself.

The "expected massacres" will only take place if the Mussulmans are afforded reason to believe that they are to be turned out of Europe. To talk or write openly in this sense is therefore to place in great risk the lives of all the Christians in the interior of Turkey; for the Mussulmans are all on the *qui vive*, and anxiously seek for information on the subject. Even a foreign occupation of any part of Turkey would have to be well considered, so as not to place the Christians of the interior in danger.

Respecting the war requisition, I had the honour to report to your Excellency on the subject in my despatch No. 43 of the 20th ultimo.

As to Blaque Bey and Ivantcho Effendi, as they did not reach this vilayet, I am unable to say anything respecting their mission.

Some Bulgarians of good standing from the vicinity of Etropole state that they never heard of what is alleged in the second Memorandum respecting the families of Savoff and Peyoff of that place, and that if it had been true they would certainly have heard of it.

Respecting the unfortunate man who was hanged here, and whose rope broke three times, I had the honour to inform your Excellency thereof in my despatch No. 34 of 11th August last.

Statements respecting Bulgaria similar to those of the two Memorandums in question are often to be heard of in Wallachia, Servia, and other parts around us, but not in this vilayet, where people know the real truth. Such statements form one of the means by which the "Comité de Charité Bulgare" at Bucharest manage to keep up the supply of funds from abroad, where all is believed, and which enables them to pass their time in the lowest haunts of Bucharest, which is far more their object than the welfare of their countrymen.

But what the Bulgarian Christians in general have good reason to complain of, as I

have several times had the honour to report to your Excellency, are the gross acts of injustice and oppression committed daily by almost every Tribunal in Bulgaria, in which no justice whatever can be obtained except by means of high exterior influence or by bribery, and this is done in the most barefaced manner.

The open acts of tyranny and oppression of the chiefs of police, municipality, and such other authorities in power, that are also of daily occurrence, are alone sufficient to goad any people into revolt. This is bad enough in the towns, but even worse, if anything, in the country districts, where highway robbery and burglary are consequently of common occurrence; and particularly at the present moment, when the police and military forces have been so much reduced from the necessities of the war; and there is no doubt that, if anything, this system is more prevalent here than in most parts of Turkey, which is attributed to the pusillanimity of the Bulgarian character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 508.

Consul Sanderson to Sir H. Elliot.

Galatz, October 6, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your Excellency's instructions I left Constantinople on the 25th September for Toultcha, with the view of reporting upon the condition of Prislaw and other villages in the Dobrudscha, in which it was alleged that excesses had been committed by the Turks.

At Kustendje, where the steamer stopped for about an hour, I was informed that there had been no report of disturbances of a grave character in the neighbourhood.

I arrived at Toultcha on the 27th of September. The Governor stated that the district was quite quiet, but he offered to place a steamer at my disposal, so that I might visit any place on the Danube, and said that an escort of zaptiehs should be ready to accompany me at any time. I declined this offer with thanks, stating that I preferred to proceed with an interpreter only.

The town appeared perfectly quiet, but it appears that about the middle of June, when the regular troops were ordered to proceed to the front, the then Governor called up the Circassians, of whom a body of 800 were collected to guard the line between Toultcha and Isaktcha. The presence of these troops led to great excitement in the town, many of the inhabitants burying their goods, &c., but it does not appear that they did any mischief in Toultcha. Remonstrances were made by the Consular body, and after ten days they were disbanded, but being dissatisfied they appear to have committed several robberies in villages on the way to their homes. In the immediate neighbourhood of Toultcha there were no cases reported of murder or arson, and the rumours that were current of the abduction of females were proved to be without foundation.

I obtained the services of Mr. Fritz Weikum, who is well acquainted with Bulgarian, Turkish and other languages, and on the 28th September visited the villages of Malkotch, Prislaw, Pirlita, Karnsovatch, Beshtépé, Uralika, and Sarigiol. There were no signs of any disturbances, the sheep and cattle were out on the pastures and the corn was being threshed. At Malkotch, a German village, there appears to have been an alarm in June last of an attack by Circassians; the Governor offered them assistance from Toultcha, which they declined; they formed a guard of their own, and were not attacked. In most of these villages they had lost cattle, but this they said occurred every year.

Having ascertained that the villages mentioned in my instructions were mostly to be found under different names in the Balkan region between Schumla and Slivna, I telegraphed on the 29th for instructions, and on the following day received your Excellency's reply.

On the 30th September, accompanied by the interpreter of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," whose services the Commander had kindly placed at my disposal, I went through the villages of Kataleui, Dalband, Chilik, Tilitza, and Frientzé. With the exception of Kataleui all these villages had been visited in the month of June by a band of about fifty Circassians.

At Dalband they appear to have broken into all the houses under the pretence of searching for arms, and to have stolen everything they could find, they beat several of the men and took fourteen of them prisoners to Babadagh, but these men were released after a few days; five guns were taken away, of which one only had been returned. A complaint was made to the authorities at Toultcha, but as the complainants stated that

they could not identify the robbers nothing was done. A man of the name of Safir Daum was attacked in the forest in broad daylight and robbed of his coat and passport; this man states that he could identify his assailants, but is afraid to make a complaint, as the Circassian village of Poshta is not far off. The village is now quiet, but the men say that they are afraid to send into the forest to cut wood, as there are a number of Circassians there; and as the winter is approaching this is a serious matter for them.

The village of Tilitza and the Bulgarian portion of Frientzé appear to have been robbed much in the same manner as Dalband, but at Frientzé of the arms taken away, seven fowling-pieces appear to have returned since, none of the pistols however.

At Chilik there is a Russian convent; when the Circassians presented themselves here they demanded arms, threatening to break open all the doors; but being met by a sergeant who was in charge of a small Turkish guard, they went away without doing any harm.

There was formerly a guard of twelve or fourteen men at this convent, but this was first reduced and afterwards taken away altogether. On the night previous to my arrival two horses had been stolen from the convent, and some men with carts returning from Toultcha, having sold their grain, were attacked and robbed of 400 piastres. A complaint was made and one zaptieh was sent out to the convent with the promise that more should be sent when they could be spared. One man was arrested in Poshta, and as in all probability he could be identified, it was considered certain that he would be punished.

The requisitions for carts and bullocks for the war have been on a moderate scale, about three months ago every group of villages, the number varying from three to eight, had to furnish one pair of bullocks and a cart, and they had just been called upon to supply another with, in this instance, a man to take charge. The Turks paid their share equally with the Christians.

The complaints in these cases seem to be entirely against the Circassians, who are always stealing when they get a chance and who have an organized system of passing on stolen cattle from village to village, which renders recovery almost impossible. In the month of June there is no doubt they were under strong religious excitement, and the villagers state that they are now afraid of being attacked by them in the event of unfavourable news being received from the seat of war, but I saw no signs in any case of houses having been burnt; nor could I hear of any one having been killed in these villages, and had such been the case I think I must have heard of it, as I was accompanied only by an interpreter, and no conversation on these subjects was carried on in the presence of a Turk.

On the 4th October I visited a place called Iglitza, about ten miles south of Matschin, where there is a large farm held by M. More, a Frenchman. This gentleman informed me that in the month of June he had been visited by a body of Circassians, that they remained hanging about for some time, and he believed that they had every intention of killing him, that they had cut to pieces two of his shepherds and another of his employés; that he had drawn up a report of the whole of the circumstances for the French Vice-Consul at Toultcha, and that he would, in a day or two, let me have a copy of this report, which I propose to forward to your Excellency when received.

I shall in the meantime endeavour to ascertain whether the statements may be fully relied on; the country appeared quiet, and there is a Turkish guard quite close.

I beg to inclose a statement of the expenses incurred, the reimbursement of which I trust your Excellency will be pleased to sanction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 508 A.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 1148.)

Therapia, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Baring and from Mr. Calvert respecting the state of affairs in the district of Philippopoli and the proceedings of the Turkish Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 508 A.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 5, 1876.

Sir,

ON the 27th ultimo I had the honour to report to your Excellency from Tartar-Bazardjik that I intended joining the Commission at Peshtera on the following morning.

This I accordingly did, but found on my arrival that the Commission intended returning to Bazardjik that evening by way of Biga.

During the few hours I was at Peshtera I conversed with all the members of the Commission, and was informed that wonderfully good relations existed between Mussulmans and Christians; further, that the insurrection at Batak had been a most formidable affair, and that, had it not been for the prompt action of Achmet Agha, the consequences would have been most serious, that the inhabitants of Batak showed a strange perverseness in not aiding the authorities in rebuilding houses, &c.; that the real reason why the Bulgarians feared to move about the country was that, knowing themselves to be guilty of all sorts of excesses, they shrank from meeting their Mussulman neighbours.

The first of these statements is one of the most audacious I have ever heard, and, subsequently, I think, even the Mussulman members of the Commission have had some reason to modify their opinions on this subject.

In my despatch to your Excellency of the 26th ultimo I reported that no improvement had taken place in the condition of the Bulgarians, and what I have since seen and heard confirm me in that opinion.

I will cite a few examples in support of what I say.

Nenko Tartaroff was murdered a very short time ago at Streldja by Hussein Bairam and Suleyman Hadji Ibrahim, both of that village.

The women of Streldja are afraid to go to their fields, as the Turks violate and ill-treat them.

A man named Rashko sent his son there to work on the harvest, but some Turks tried to violate both him and his mother and they were obliged to leave the place.

Some property having been stolen from an Albanian at Bellova, Daoud Tchavuch arrested two Bulgarians. He then seized two more, and beat them till they consented to give evidence against the other two.

At Kalogero on the 27th ultimo, a Mussulman gipsy beat a Bulgarian girl, who refused to do forced labour for him.

Ivan Kosmaroff and Elia Angeloff, of Bega, were threatened by Turks a few days ago for daring to ask for the restoration of stolen property, which was in the houses of the latter.

On the 28th ultimo the horse of George Stephan, of Vetren, was stolen, and his wife beaten by Circassians of Capoudjik.

On Sunday, at Dervent, I saw a man who had been wounded; at Sopot, the day before yesterday, I saw an old man who had just been wounded in the head and robbed of what little he possessed by some Turks; and to-day I have seen three Bulgarians of Beayuk Kouron-keui, who have been treated in a similar manner. The aggressors of these latter have, however, been arrested.

I will not trouble your Excellency with any more individual cases of this description, and will only say that nothing can possibly be worse than the condition of the Christians in this part of Turkey.

It is absurd to say that the insurrection at Batak was formidable, but even if it was it would not be an excuse for the massacre that took place. Three Turks are said to have been killed outside the village, but a certain Said Agha, who was there on business connected with the sale of tithes, when Achmet Agha arrived, and on whose evidence the

Commission relies greatly to prove its case, was let go safe and sound, which shows that the inhabitants could not have been animated with any very bloodthirsty intentions against Mussulmans in general.

The Commission attaches great value to the evidence of some Turks and of some Bulgarians of another village, but they appear to treat with contempt that which is offered by inhabitants of Batak itself.

The Commission, moreover, seems to think that the survivors of the massacre should be as blithe and gay and ready to work as if no misfortune had befallen them; and, in spite of the example they have of Achmet Agha's, that they should put perfect trust in Turkish promises.

I do not wish to prejudge the case, but I cannot help thinking, from remarks which fall from the Mussulman members of the Commission, that they intend to absolve Achmet Agha from all guilt, as attempts are being made to show that he used all his efforts to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks.

Somebody will very likely be punished for the Batak affair, as not one member of the Commission dares deny that a horrible massacre of innocent persons took place, but I much fear that the leader will escape, though he, of course, is the person upon whom punishment should fall.

Ali Bey, one of the worst fanatics of Bazardjik, and a member of the Medjliss, is also, it is said, responsible for the slaughter of some of the victims. It is stated that after the massacre had lasted two days the Bashi-Bazouks took the survivors outside the village, and Achmet Agha sent a guard named Selim to Ali Bey, to ask what he should do with them; the answer was to kill the men, which accordingly was done, only two escaping.

I did not hear this story the last time I was in Bulgaria, but, if it is true, Ali Bey ought certainly to be brought to trial. This man is also guilty of other acts of oppression and pillage, and his nephew, Mehmet Ali, led the Bashi-Bazouks who plundered Brezigovo after the inhabitants had given up their arms to Hassan Pasha.

Before returning to Philippopoli I naturally thought that the Commission would visit Ollou-keui, Avrat Alan, and some other villages in the Caza of Bazardjik; I was therefore greatly surprised to hear that it intended leaving Bazardjik on the 30th ultimo, and going straight through Philippopoli to Karlowo and Dervent.

Some of the members assured me that Ollou-keui would be visited later on, and I only trust that this may be true, as a Commission whose supposed object it is to inquire into the atrocities committed in this province, and which passed by in silence the barbarities of Hassan Pasha's troops would certainly not inspire confidence.

I accompanied the Commission to Karlowo on the 30th ultimo, and on the following day we proceeded to Dervent (Klissura).

In this village which, as your Excellency is aware, was totally burnt by the Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, the Commission should have stayed at least one whole day, instead of which it stayed not quite three hours.

Only one deposition was regularly taken, viz., that of an old woman.

What the other villagers said was never written down, but twelve names were taken, and the bearers will be examined here.

In this village the inhabitants certainly spoke out manfully, in spite of the presence of their authorities.

They did not deny having killed Mehmet Effendi and two zaptiés, nor that eighty men came from Avrat-Alan to induce them to rise, a man named Karadjoff having been the principal instigator.

They said they went to their fortifications, sending out scouts, who were to apprize them of the approach of the Bashi-Bazouks by firing pistol shots.

As soon as the Turks did appear they fled, after firing about half-a-dozen shots, and took to the mountains.

The Bashi-Bazouks found nobody in the village but old or infirm men, women, and little children. They spared no one, and the exact list of the killed, which had not been made out when I was at Dervent before, is as follows:—

Men	58
Women and children	192
Infants	30
Total	280

In my Report I had put the loss of life at 260.

The village was not burnt all at once, but after the Bashi-Bazouks had taken every-

thing out of a house they set fire to it; the consequence was the burning went on for many days.

This, I think, sufficiently disposes of the Turkish story that the inhabitants burnt the place themselves.

One villager, Veli Oglou Deutcho, openly accused the Kiatib of the Mudir, Abdullah Effendi, of having robbed his wife of 18 Turkish pounds and 68 medjidiés.

The story having been proved beyond all doubt, Sadoullah Bey ordered the man's arrest.

The village authorities accused the inhabitants of apathy, inasmuch as they refused to go to the hills and cut wood to rebuild their houses.

This impudent statement produced a perfect burst of indignation from the villagers. They asked how they could go and work when, if they stirred outside the village, the first Turk that met them beat them, and took even their jackets, shoes, and cap.

After this Sadoullah Bey lectured the Bulgarians on their infamous conduct, and told them they had brought all their misfortunes on their own heads, but that the Government was merciful, and would overlook their shortcomings, and help them to rebuild their houses.

Up to the present moment these people have not received the slightest relief, and have only got back a very small portion of their lost cattle.

On our way up to Dervent, we met three armed Turks driving some oxen and goats, and on arriving at Dervent I discovered that one of these oxen had been recognized as belonging to the village when the Turks passed through. Some people went to claim the ox, but one of their number was severely wounded by a blow from a yataghan, and the marauders quietly continued their journey.

For all this massacre and pillage, Tossoun Bey is directly responsible, and the people of Dervent declare openly that he knows well enough where their property is at the present moment.

I have not any great hopes that the villagers will get much of their cattle restored to them, too long a time has elapsed since it was carried off, and a great deal of it has, of course, by this time changed hands.

It is true that I have had official lists shown me of thousands of head of sheep and oxen restored to their owners by Government, but I regret to say that all the villagers I have met tell me they only have got back an infinitesimal part of their lost cattle.

Thus Dervent possessed some 800 oxen, now it has 30.

In the villages, with the inhabitants of which I have had no communication, the case may, perhaps, be different; I judge from what comes actually under my notice.

In my report, I mentioned that a child belonging to Dervent had been carried off to a Turkish village; the mother informed me the other day that no attempt had been made to get it restored to her.

The Turkish villages which furnished the Bashi-Bazouks who attacked Dervent are all perfectly well known, and lie pretty close together. I feel sure, therefore, that if the authorities chose to make a real effort, they might get a great deal of the stolen property restored. The people of Dervent should be called upon to give in a return of what they have lost, and the houses of the Turks should then be searched, and any objects which excited the smallest suspicion immediately impounded.

I do not pretend that this in an easy task, but it is not impossible.

On Monday the 2nd instant, the Commission stayed at Karlowo and examined Christians, Mussulmans and Jews respecting the events of the insurrection and endeavoured to discover what stolen property there was in the place.

The Turks were introduced first, and the Khodja who acted as spokesman delivered a most magnificent oration, which had evidently been carefully prepared before.

He dwelt on the formidable character of the insurrection, on the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians; on the insolent messages sent by the insurgents to the Turks; on the mild lamb-like character of all Bashi-Bazouks, and especially of those who had fought their country's battles at Dervent, and on the infamous falsehoods spread abroad respecting their deeds. They had not, he said, burnt a single house, carried off a piastre's worth of property, or raised their hands against an unarmed person. He finished his discourse with the following ominous phrase:—"Now that the insurrection is at an end, we bear the Bulgarians no ill-will; far from it, we wish to be as brothers with them. But we were asleep, we are now awake, and we will not be responsible for the consequences if the smallest movement were to take place (the expression he used was, 'Bis'tel kerolersa': if a hair were to break). We therefore pray the Government to take measures effectually to protect Mussulmans from any further aggression."

This last phrase probably refers to something that may have been said about disarming the Turks.

In what he said about the Mussulmans not being responsible for the future, we cannot but see a direct menace to the Christian population. "If a hair were to break," i.e. the slightest circumstance would set the province on fire again; of course, it depends upon what the Khodja would consider to be a "movement" on the part of the Bulgarians, he might consider a blow given by a Christian to a Turk, or even high words between them to be the signs of incipient revolt.

At any rate the presence of a man who could pronounce these inflammatory words in a mixed town is, in the present temper of the Mussulmans, most undesirable. If he spoke out in this violent way in the presence of Turkish officials from Constantinople it is not to be supposed that he was usually less menacing in his language when surrounded only by his fellow-townsmen, who, of course, more or less look upon him as an oracle.

He should be removed to the opposite end of the Empire without loss of time, as his presence is a danger to the rayahs, and in this opinion the Christian members of the Commission fully agree; I would, therefore, respectfully suggest to your Excellency that the Porte might be urged, without loss of time, to find him employment in some other quarter.

After the Khodja had spoken Tossoun Bey made a few remarks to the effect that there had been no massacre at Dervent, and that his losses amounted to four men wounded!

Other people say only one Bashi-Bazouk was shot in the leg. If one even takes Tossoun's estimate it proves that no real resistance was offered.

When the Turks left the room the Tchorbadjis were introduced.

They said that when Selaini Pasha was at Karlowo with the Circassians, women were violated and other lawless acts committed, but the Commission have as yet taken no steps to inquire into these matters.

They said they had heard that waggon-loads of things had been brought from Dervent by the Bashi-Bazouks, and two Bulgarians, who had bought some of the stolen property, were examined.

Unfortunately, when the Bulgarians are examined fear usually, more or less, seals their lips, and it is difficult to elicit anything from them. The Turkish members of the Commission pretend to be surprised at this, though they must know perfectly well to what extent the Mussulmans terrorize the Christians.

On the 3rd instant the Commission stayed at Sopot (Altchek Kilissi), and spent the whole day inquiring into a case which I made known to it, and which is mentioned in my report, viz., the question of the money paid to Tossoun Bey to induce him to spare the village.

I think this case is now proved beyond all doubt, but I will not enter into it now as I shall have to refer to it at length when I have the honour to report Tossoun Bey's examination to your Excellency.

The Commission further visited the small mixed village of Koulleler, where a very bad feeling existed between Christians and Mussulmans, and returned to Philippopoli yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 508 A.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 7, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to draw up, for your Excellency's information, the following précis of the regulations laid down by Sadoullah Bey in the formation and for the guidance of the local Commissions appointed to superintend the reconstruction of the burnt villages in this sandjak.

The presidents of the Commissions to receive 50 piastres, and the members and secretaries 30 piastres per diem, dating from the day of their departure from Philippopoli till the end of their mission.

Each of the Commissioners to be accompanied by a police escort.

Suggestions of the Commissions, if practicable, to be immediately carried into execution by the nearest authorities.

Winter being imminent, the Commission will "in proper language" request the inhabitants—Christian and Mahommedan—of the neighbouring undestroyed villages to assist in the work of reconstruction by bringing down building material to the localities where it is needed.

The burnt-out people will be divided into three categories according to indications to be furnished by the elders or head-men of each village:—

1. Those who can pay the builders' wages.
2. Those who will be able to pay hereafter.
3. Those who cannot pay at all.

From the second category, guarantees (kefil) will be exacted; the third will have their dwellings rebuilt gratis.

The same rule to be followed with the people deprived of their cattle and agricultural stock.

Unfortunately the injunction to "*request*" the inhabitants of adjacent undestroyed villages to assist their necessitous neighbours, seems likely to inflict much hardship on communities that can ill bear it. For instance, the Christian inhabitants of Peshtera have sent to me to complain that they have been "*ordered*" by the authorities of Bazardjik to provide for the burnt village of Begha 4,800 beams of wood, which is at the rate of four beams per "noufouz," or male inhabitant, between one and seventy years of age.

It is true that the Mussulmans of Peshtera have received a similar requisition, but they are much better able to meet it, having enriched themselves by the plunder of their Christian neighbours, while the latter are only better off than the inhabitants of the burnt villages in the respect of having a roof over their heads.

All I could say to the deputation from Peshtera that came to me on this matter was to advise them to do their best to comply with the Government requisition and trust for indemnification to the aid now being organized at Constantinople under your Excellency's auspices.

As regards the general condition of the Christian peasantry, I regret to say that it is as deplorable as ever. One well-authenticated incident will give an idea of the universal manner in which the Mussulmans are armed. A Pomak child receiving the other day some real or imaginary offence from a Christian woman in a village near Peshtera drew a pistol and fired point blank at the woman, wounding her severely in the belly. Both the child and the woman are now in Philippopoli; the latter, under medical care, is in a precarious state; the former, a boy of eight or ten years, runs no risk of punishment, the law not providing any penalty for such youthful criminals.

A party of Christian peasants from Aladja-Ali, near Hasskeui, are now here about a grievance against the Moslems of the same village. It appears that for the last four months the Christian inhabitants have been forced to work without pay for their Osmanli neighbours; this fact is certified by a paper bearing the signatures of the five Mussulman tithe-collectors of the village.

I have spoken strongly to the authorities in regard to this case, and have moreover communicated the facts to Mr. Baring, who will also, I believe, exert his influence to obtain justice for the plaintiffs.

The arrival of a battalion of Asiatic troops from Sophia has certainly inspired the Christians of Philippopoli with an increased degree of confidence, but it will require a wider distribution of regular forces to insure the protection of life and property in the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 508 B.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 1149.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Baring in which he corrects some expressions in his general report on the occurrences in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 508 B.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, October 8, 1876.*

THERE is an expression in my Report which I want to correct, as I think otherwise it would mislead those who read it.

I have applied the word "foreign" to the emissaries and agitators who stirred up the revolt.

The principal men, such as Benkowsky, Vankoff, Haritou, and others, were all Bulgarians by birth, but had lived for many years in Roumania or Servia; it is true they came from abroad, but, as regards Bulgaria, they should not be called foreigners.

Among the leaders was a man who was known as "Odessali," but it is doubtful whether he was a Russian or only a Bulgarian settled at Odessa.

I never intended in my Report to convey the impression that *bonâ fide* foreigners took an active part in the revolt, but I quite understand that the expression I used might lead people to suppose that such was my opinion, and I therefore hasten to correct it.

As regards the unfortunate schoolmistress of Otlou-keui, I believe my remarks have been thought to imply that I considered she had been subjected to no ill-usage. Nothing was further from my mind. I never supposed that any woman who fell into the hands of the savages who plundered Otlou-keui would escape without being brutally ill-treated.

Though when I was here before she denied having been violated, I hear she has now admitted the fact; and I am also told that the story I mentioned of her having offered herself for medical examination is not true. I had it on the authority of two respectable medical men of this town.

In the list I give of Bulgarian villages burnt in the Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, I have mentioned Bega. I find now that this village is a mixed one, and contained sixty-one Christian and forty-three Turkish houses.

It has been totally burnt, the Bulgarians accusing the Turks, and the Turks the Bulgarians of the deed. It contained a church and a mosque, both of which are destroyed.

It is worth noting, as a proof of how much better off the Mussulmans are than the Christians, that whereas forty Turkish houses have been rebuilt, or are in course of reconstruction, not a single Christian house has been touched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 509.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 384.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, herewith, a copy of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the receipt of the note which I addressed to his Excellency by your Lordship's instructions on the 10th instant, acquainting the Italian Government with the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian proposals concerning the armistice, an occupation of Bosnia and Bulgaria, and the entry of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

His Excellency states in the note that he received my note, dated the 10th, on the 12th instant. After inquiry, I have satisfied myself that the delay in the delivery was not the fault of the Embassy messenger, and that my note was delivered at the Ministry

for Foreign Affairs within an hour-and-a-half after I had received by the post your Lordship's despatch No. 479 of the 5th instant, on which it was founded.

The intelligence contained in it had been previously communicated to his Excellency verbally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 509.

M. Melegari to Mr. Malet.

(Translation.) *Rome, October* 18, 1876.

Sir,

IN your note of the 10th instant, which reached me the morning of the 12th, your Excellency made known to me, according to instructions from your Government, the answer that the British Cabinet made to the recent proposals of the Russian Cabinet.

In thanking your Excellency for your courteous communication, it is a pleasure to me to add that for their part the Italian Government will continue to join with zeal in all those acts which may tend to secure effectively the pacification of European Turkey.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) MELEGARI.

No. 510.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 892.) *Paris, October* 21, 1876.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of a telegraphic instruction which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship last night, I communicated to the Duc Decazes this afternoon the decision of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Russian demand that the armistice in Turkey shall not exceed a month or six weeks.

That decision was, I said, to the following effect :—

Her Majesty's Government having accepted the proposal of the Porte for an armistice of six months are not prepared to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposal. They will offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but they cannot press the Porte to consent.

The Duc Decazes said that, for his own part, he had not sent any instructions to Constantinople in answer to the communication signifying the acceptance by the Porte of an armistice of five or six months.

He had, in consequence of the representation which I had made to him by your Lordship's order, sent telegraphic instructions to Belgrade and Cettigné in support of the six months' armistice. At Belgrade those instructions had not been acted upon in consequence of an understanding between the French and English Agents, who had agreed that it would be unadvisable to urge the acceptance of the six months' term in opposition to the advice given by Russia. At Cettigné the recommendation to agree to the proposal of the Porte had at first been favourably received by Prince Nicholas, although, ultimately, His Highness had not acted in conformity with it.

This was, the Duc Decazes went on to say, the position in which the question of the armistice stood, so far as France was concerned. He could not, however, help feeling a little embarrassed by the decision of Her Majesty's Government. He could not suppose that it was intended to imply that Her Majesty's Government withdrew altogether from the negotiations on the Eastern question; that they had determined to let things take their own course, without any further attempt to control them. It was impossible to believe that England could cease to interest herself in the distribution of territory and of power in the East. What then was he to conclude? He was very desirous to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government. What steps should he take for that purpose?

The Duke concluded by begging me to ask your Lordship, from him, what would be the attitude of England if Russia should actually invade Turkey.

I have already transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 511.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 893. Very Confidential.) *Paris, October* 21, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the course of the conversation I had this afternoon with the Duc Decazes, he told me that he had been made acquainted with a telegram from Count Andrassy instructing Count Beust to inform your Lordship that the Austro-Hungarian Government entirely agree with Her Majesty's Government on the question of the six months' armistice, and that the reports of a secret understanding between Austria and Russia were wholly without foundation.

The Duke proceeded to say that the conduct of Austria was hardly consistent with this telegram. It had, he told me, come to his knowledge that when England and France were urging the Prince of Montenegro to accept the six months' armistice, the Austrian Government had advised him not to do so, and had given as a reason that the armistice would certainly be shortened.

The Duke observed that it was no doubt true that Austria had declined the proposal brought by General Soumarakoff from Livadia, that she should occupy Bosnia, and that Russia should occupy Bulgaria. Count Andrassy had in fact suggested that, if coercive measures were to be adopted against the Porte, it would be better that they should, in the first instance, be confined to a demonstration by the fleets in the Bosphorus. But was it certain that all parties in Austria were so very averse to an occupation of Bosnia? Public opinion in Hungary might render it unadvisable to assent beforehand to such an occupation. But there might perhaps be in some quarters no great unwillingness to be forced as it were into this measure. It might, perhaps, be deemed not inconvenient that Russia should march first into Bulgaria without the concurrence of the Austrian Government; and that thus Austria should appear to be forced in self-defence, as it were, to send troops into Bosnia.

It was, the Duke said in conclusion, to be remembered that there were two Austrias —there was the Austria of the Magyars, and there was the Austria of the Court and the military party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 512.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 894. Confidential.) *Paris, October* 21, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes said to me this afternoon that he did not despair of a settlement of the Eastern question being effected without a war between Russia and Turkey.

The accounts he received did not, he observed, show that the Russian Government was making such preparations as would be made by any prudent Government which really contemplated an immediate resort to hostilities. He had, indeed, been informed that some millions of roubles had been expended in the purchase of stores; but it did not appear that these purchases were on the scale that would be required for actual war. Nor could he learn that any concentration of Russian troops had taken place.

It seemed still possible that if the Porte acceded to the six weeks' armistice, and to the conditions of peace originally proposed by England, war might be avoided.

At the same time, however, it was not, the Duke thought, to be forgotten, that the Emperor Alexander had now gone so far, that it would be difficult for him to draw back without obtaining some decided advantage to satisfy his own pride and that of his people. His Majesty would at the least, the Duke supposed, require that the settlement should be one which would increase rather than diminish the prestige of Russia in the eyes of the Christian population of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 513.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 895. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 21, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this afternoon that M. Rosetti had come to him the day before, and had complained that he had been unable to obtain from him an expression of opinion on the questions on which he had come to consult him on the part of the Roumanian Government.

The Duc Decazes had, he said, replied that these were questions on which he did not feel bound to give the Roumanian Government advice. For instance, one of them was whether the Government should consent to the passage of a Russian army through its territory. On this point, he could only refer the Roumanian Government to the Treaties. It would find its duty clearly laid down there. He would not undertake to give advice, when his doing so might be construed into an engagement to see Roumania harmless if the advice were followed.

Having given me this account of the answer he had made to M. Rosetti, the Duke proceeded to tell me that that gentleman had rejoined that he had not thought it worth while to go on to England himself as he had met with so little encouragement at Paris that he could not hope for a good reception in London. He had, however, reason to believe that some other person would be sent on a special mission to the English Government.

M. Rosetti had then, the Duke said, asked whether the appointment as Roumanian Agent in Paris of a man whose name he gave would be agreeable to the French Government. The Duke had, he told me, never heard of the individual in question, nor was M. Rosetti able to give him any information about him. He had therefore answered that as the person to be appointed would not belong to the Diplomatic Body, nor hold any official position at Paris, there did not appear to be any necessity for consulting the French Government at all about the appointment; but that if he was to give an opinion, he must have further information.

I asked the Duke whether this step of M. Rosetti's was not an attempt to obtain indirectly the sanction of the French Government to the appointment of a recognized Roumanian Agent at Paris.

The Duke answered that he did not look upon it in that light, as the same course had been followed some time ago when M. Kallimachi Katargi was appointed.

M. Kallimachi Katargi has resigned the Roumanian Agency at Paris, partly, it is supposed, from considering the mission of M. Rosetti as a slight to himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 514.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 22, 1876, 2·30 P.M.*

YOU may proceed to Livadia as soon as you can conveniently do so. Report what cyphers you take with you and what arrangements should be made as to messengers.

No. 515.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 22, 1876.*

FROM Monson, dated yesterday:—

"The evacuation by the Turks of the posts recently occupied by them before Spuz and the capitulation of Medun have produced a great sensation here. It is possible that the warlike spirit will be still further aroused in Montenegro and the flame of revolt kindled in the neighbouring tribes of Albania, not to speak of complications elsewhere. It is clear, as I have repeatedly pointed out, that the Turkish arms can do nothing against Montenegro. My colleagues and I are therefore of opinion that, in the interest of the Porte itself, and to stop the effusion of blood and the ruin of the country, it is

urgent that a regular armistice, even of short duration, should be concluded at once, in order that negotiations for a definite peace may be commenced without delay. The Austrian, French, and Italian Agents telegraph to their respective Governments in this sense."

No. 516.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 533. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 22, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to proceed to Livadia with as little delay as possible.

You will report to me what cyphers you take with you, and what arrangements you consider desirable as to the route to be followed by the Queen's messengers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 517.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has inquired by telegraph when to expect me, and seems anxious for my arrival.

Delay in my departure would be ungracious after a message from Livadia, and possibly misinterpreted by the public. I therefore leave to-night, and shall arrive at Yalta on Thursday morning.

Drury will follow me with the despatches which arrive by messenger.

No. 518.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I had some conversation yesterday with an old and faithful Ionian functionary just arrived from Athens. He told me, that by the turn the negotiations for peace have taken, they are not a little puzzled and disconcerted. They modestly expect that Greece will not be altogether forgotten in the division of the spoil, but are quite decided that nothing will put an end to aggressive agitation by every true Hellenic patriot, short of the concession of such autonomous independence as it is proposed to confer on Bosnia and Herzegovina, to Crete, Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia, which they are pleased to consider as Greek provinces.

The old distrust of Russian policy is as rife as ever, and even Dr. Lombardo declared to my informant that the wisest course for Greece to pursue, at this moment, is to adhere to the policy of England, although it may be allowed to doubt the sincerity of Dr. Lombardo's professions in this respect. The same feeling of attachment to England appears to prevail generally in these islands, and this, I trust, may be affirmed with truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 519.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroom, October 4, 1876.*

THE intelligence I receive from different parts of Koordistan, leads me to believe that the Christians are suffering severe oppression from the authorities and Mussulman

population, who, knowing the weakness of the Government, and its inability or its unwillingness to restrain fanaticism, are rapidly relieving themselves from all restraint, and are giving free exercise to their hatred of the Christians.

Cases of beating, wounding and robbing Christians are daily, I may say hourly, reported.

There is no doubt that Samih Pasha tries to make the subordinate authorities do their duty, and he is constantly instructing them to pay particular attention to the treatment of the Christians, but his Excellency is so badly seconded by the inferior authorities, that all his efforts fall very far short of his wishes; and as he has himself said to me, it is impossible to carry on the administration of the province with anything like order so long as Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams and Medjlisses are independent of him, and can set aside his instructions.

I do not exaggerate in saying that this province, beyond Samih Pasha, possesses no authorities who are either inclined to, or capable of administering the laws and protecting the Christians, and every Tribunal is but a burlesque on the function it has to fulfil.

I have frequently called the attention of Samih Pasha to the subject, and his Excellency has concurred in what I have said, but as he cannot dismiss Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams or members of Tribunals, he has no hold on them. He can only report to Constantinople, a procedure which very seldom results in a satisfactory result, for, either his complaints are not attended to (the individuals whom he reports being powerfully supported) or advantage is taken of them to remove persons complained of, whose influence is weak, to replace them by other men equally bad, but who have powerful friends.

The different Tribunals in this town are so corrupt that no one now thinks of appealing to them without first bribing.

Impunity has made these Tribunals so corrupt that no secret is now made of the fact that decisions and verdicts are not for the innocent and guiltless, but for those who can purchase them, and litigants may often be heard in the streets, openly disputing the sum which each side will pay for a verdict.

I have had several most glaring cases of corruption brought to my notice, and I am aware that Samih Pasha has often had to address reprimands to the different Tribunals in language which, were the members composing them honest men, would not be tolerated; but neither reprimands nor exposure have the least effect, and all the Tribunals are open bazaars for the sale of justice.

I shall give one case in proof of the utter dishonesty of these Tribunals, and as in this case the Government is the plaintiff, it shows to what extent corruption is pushed.

Last year the Chief Customer here remitted about 1,000*l.* to the Ministry at Constantinople by means of a bill he purchased of a trader. The bill was dishonoured and returned, the Customer laid the case before the Tribunal of Commerce, a bribe from the seller of the bill of 120*l.* produced a verdict against the Customer; an appeal was made to a superior Court, the decision was reversed, and the case again referred to the Commercial Tribunal, and there it has remained for months and no new decision can be obtained.

The Customer, after trying all the means at his disposal in vain, has now privately appealed to me, and he begs me to try if my influence cannot obtain for the Government a settlement which its own officers refuse of their own accord to make.

If the servants of the Sultan can be induced, not only to neglect their duty to their Sovereign, but even to accept bribes to decide against him, it is not difficult to imagine what justice is meted out to the people.

Such being the conduct of the officials entrusted with the execution of justice in the capital of the province, what must be the conduct of those in the districts removed from the direct surveillance of the Governor-General, and who can, therefore, not only freely exercise their venal propensities, but can give full play to their fanaticism against the Christians.

That the Christians suffer severely, the reports and complaints continually reaching the Valy prove, and if a thorough reorganization is not made, there must soon be not even the semblance of law in this part of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 520.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 23.*)

(No. 23. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 7, 1876.*

ON my seeing in the Constantinople papers that disorders had been committed near Yusgat by Redifs, I begged Mr. Doulcet, the British Consular Agent at Samsoon, to report to me, for your Lordship's information, the details of the occurrence with as much accuracy as possible.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of Mr. Doulcet's answer, dated 2nd instant, which reached me yesterday, stating that the circumstances related by the "Manzaumé Efkiar" in its No. 3,234 of the 6th ultimo, seem to be perfectly true.

The gist of the long article of four columns concerning the occurrences is that a body of about 300 Redifs, instead of following the main road, proceeded to the village of Sare Hamzale, which is inhabited by about ten Mussulman and forty Armenian families; that the latter having offered them hospitality, the soldiers insisted on being served with expensive victuals, sweetmeats, &c., and so managed things as to send on errands the males in each house, in order to be waited upon by the women; that in some cases they ill-treated their hosts, although they complied with all their caprices, and exacted from them receipts for supposed payment of their board and lodging; that they insisted upon a priest procuring women for them; that they attacked two young girls in the fields, robbing them of their rings, and would have submitted them to further outrage, had it not been, as in the case of the priest, for the interference of native Mussulmans; that two or three soldiers introduced themselves through the chimney in the house of a newly married couple, but whether they used violence or not the writer of the article cannot say; that on their departure they forcibly took possession of 7 carts and 20 horses to carry their luggage, and loaded so heavily two Armenian youths with arms, that one of them fell quite exhausted on the road, and had to be conveyed to the next village on one of the carts; the other they compelled to bray and bark on the public square of another village, and after the last performance, thrashed him under pretext that he had, by his barking, gathered round them all the dogs in the place.

Not wishing to lay open to blame in this, or in any other circumstance which may occur hereafter, I take the liberty in conveying the above information to your Lordship to call attention to the length of time which elapses, and to the difficulty which is experienced by those who seem to be so near the spot, to obtain information of some kind on occurrences in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 520.

Mr. Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

M. le Vice-Consul, *Samsoun, le 2 Octobre*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à votre lettre du 25 Septembre, que je n'ai reçue que le 29.

Nous n'avons connu ici les désordres qui ont été commis aux environs de Yuzgat, au village de Sare Hamzalé, que par les récits qu'en ont fait les journaux Arméniens qui se publient à Constantinople, et cela tout dernièrement.

Tout ce qui a été écrit au sujet des violences dont la population Arménienne du susdit village a été l'objet de la part d'un détachement de rédifs, dans l'article que le journal Arménien le "Manzaumé Efkiar" a publié le $\frac{22 \text{ Septembre}}{4 \text{ Octobre}}$, dans son numéro 3234, paraît parfaitement exact d'après les informations que j'ai pu recueillir ici en m'adressant aux personnes qui ont des relations avec Yuzgat, et à d'autres qui ont traversé récemment les lieux qui ont été le théâtre des tristes événements dont il s'agit.

Il vous sera facile je pense de vous procurer le numéro du journal dont je viens de parler, et d'en prendre connaissance en vous adressant aux Arméniens de votre localité. M. Missir, Dragoman du Consulat de France, pourra, je crois, vous le procurer aisément.

Ces jours derniers 500 Rédifs du 2e ban, provenant des environs de Karpout, se sont embarqués ici sur la corvette le "Libuan" pour se rendre à Constantinople.

Au départ de leur lieu de provenance ces troupes formaient un bataillon complet de 800 hommes; 240 ont déserté en route.

La tranquillité la plus parfaite continue à régner à Samsoun et dans les environs.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) N. DOULCET.

No. 521.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 186. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 8, 1876.*

SHORTLY after dinner yesterday evening, Prince Nicholas received a telegram announcing that fighting had been going on all day at Grahowatz, between his forces and the Turks under Moukhtar Pasha. The Montenegrin report alleges that the Turks attacked, but the fact appears to be that the entrenchments of the opposing forces are close to one another.

The Prince was informed that his own loss was thirty killed and seventy wounded; that 400 Turkish heads had been taken; and that the whole Turkish loss probably amounted to 800.

His Highness was visibly distressed at the intelligence of the recommencement of hostilities, and sent for a runner, who left Grahowatz two days ago, and whom he questioned in our presence on the positions of the two armies.

From the general depression noticeable to-day, my colleagues and I are inclined to believe that the Montenegrins have met with a reverse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—Later reports received by the Prince estimate the Turkish loss at nearly 1,200, and give 44 Montenegrins and 12 Herzegovinians killed and about 100 wounded.

E. M.

No. 522.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 187. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 10, 1876.*

TELEGRAMS received here yesterday announce that five battalions of Montenegrins, which had been sent to cut Moukhtar Pasha's communications with Trebigné, finding that the Turks had taken such precautions as to render that operation impossible, had penetrated as far as Ljubinjé, in the Herzegovina, and burned a great many houses.

Moukhtar Pasha claims a victory on the 7th. In spite of the assertions of the Montenegrins (which I believe) that they inflicted serious loss on the Turks, the general depression here inclines me to think that the Prince's forces have received a check.

Dervish Pasha made a forward movement yesterday from Spuz, and occupied an eminence, commanded by the guns of that fortress, without resistance from this side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 523.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 188. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 10, 1876.*

THE situation of Prince Nicholas has for some days past been evidently such as to embarrass His Highness seriously, and his health and spirits have been considerably

affected by the difficulties which surround him. He is, as I have pointed out, very anxious for immediate peace, partly because he believes what the Foreign Agents have told him, that the Great Powers are generally disposed to obtain good terms for Montenegro, and that this favourable disposition may be dissipated by the continuance of the war, and partly because he is, both by temperament and education, so far different from the majority of his subjects, that he cannot, as they do, regard fighting the Turks as a pastime, or as a superior kind of field-sport. The Prince feels acutely the deaths of his mountaineers, many of whom are personally known to him. The wounds and scars at which they jest are abhorrent to him, and he has, as he has assured me, done his best to check their barbarous habit of mutilating the dead. He has also endeavoured to show that he is anxious to treat his enemies generously, and he is quite aware that these manifestations of moderation are distasteful to many of his advisers, and that there is much discontent at the idea that Montenegro is being played with, and that the pacific counsels of the foreign Agents have merely resulted in giving the Turks time to re-organize their demoralized forces, and in depriving the Montenegrins of an opportunity of profiting by previous success.

There is a general belief that the delay in concluding the armistice is caused by the fact that some one Power is not playing a straightforward game, and two of the foreign Agents have probably encouraged this idea by respectively accusing the country represented by the other of raising unnecessary obstacles to the conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 524.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 189. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 10, 1876.*

COLONEL THÖMMEL, the Austrian Agent, asked me yesterday what I should do in the event of the Prince deciding to return to the camp.

I replied that I must in that case telegraph to your Lordship for instructions, and Colonel Thömmel said that he would do the same to Count Andrassy.

The Russian Military Agent will accompany His Highness to the camp, but I understand that M. Yonine will remain at Cettigné.

The French and Italian Agents will, I believe, also ask for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 525.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 191. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 12, 1876.*

M. DURANDO, the Italian Agent, returned from Ragusa yesterday on telegraphic orders from his Government.

A couple of hours after his arrival he received from Rome and Constantinople simultaneously the welcome announcement that the Porte consented to a regular armistice. Neither the Prince, nor any one of the foreign Agents, has as yet received any information on the subject.

The Prince was clearly relieved by the intelligence, and by the telegrams from the neighbourhood of Spuz, which he read to me last night in the smoking-room of the Palace, and the substance of which I have recorded in my preceding despatch No. 190, of this day's date.

In the event of a Conference there seems but little doubt that His Highness intends to go in person to plead his cause with the Representatives of the Powers taking part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 526.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 192. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

COLONEL THOMMEL told me last night that it was some time ago that he had proposed to Prince Nicholas to go to Vienna as soon as an armistice should be concluded. His Highness was pleased with the idea, and Count Andrassy telegraphed that the Emperor Francis Joseph would give him a cordial welcome as an independent Prince. M. Yonine, upon being informed of the project, suggested at St. Petersburgh that he should be instructed to prevent the visit, but received a reply from Prince Gortchakow to the effect that the Czar entirely approved the idea.

The Servian Government is to be informed at the last moment, and Prince Milan is to be invited by Prince Nicholas to meet him at Vienna. Prince Nicholas, however, is well aware that the Emperor will give no encouragement to Prince Milan to undertake such a journey, as His Imperial Majesty regards the position of Servia towards the Porte as very different from that of Montenegro; and His Highness is not, it seems, displeased at the knowledge that a meeting with his princely ally is improbable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 527.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 193. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

M. DURANDO informs me that, by order of the Italian Government, he the night before last proposed to Prince Nicholas to negotiate separately from, and independently of, Servia, and that His Highness showed himself very favourably disposed towards such a line of action.

I believe that great efforts are being made by the Servian Agent here and by M. Yonine to persuade the Prince to take a fourth share with Servia in a loan to be raised in Russia, and thus to avert the danger of Montenegro separating her interests from those of Servia during the negotiations for peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 528.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 194. Political.)

Cettigné, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I AM assured that at Ragusa, Castelnuovo, and Cattaro, the Austrian Government is making preparations on an extensive scale for the reception and provisioning of a large military force. A military Governor ("Festungs-Commandant") will, it is reported, be appointed at Ragusa, in addition to the General of Brigade who will succeed General Jovanovics, the latter having been transferred to Laibach as General of Division.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 529.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 195. Political. Confidential.)

Cettigné, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

M. CECCALDI has received this morning from the Duc Decazes instructions respecting the armistice. He went at once to Prince Nicholas; but, I am sorry to say,

he tells me that His Highness showed considerable reserve, and declined giving any assurance that he would accept it; alleging that the duration proposed was excessive, and that the military position in Servia was so unfavourable to the Turks that the Porte had only consented in order to get her troops out of danger.

M. Ceccaldi says that he used every argument he could think of to elicit some positive promise of adhesion from the Prince, but was obliged to leave His Highness without succeeding.

The mail starts so early (at 11 A.M.) that I have no time to report at any greater length.

Although without instructions from your Lordship, I shall, of course, if I see the Prince, use my best efforts in support of my colleagues' advice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 530.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 2. Political.)

Galatz, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, with reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 11th instant, that, as far as I can ascertain, the strength of the 3rd division of the Roumanian army, of which the head-quarters is at Galatz, will be raised to about 15,000 men. A contract has been entered into with a firm in this town for the import of sixty tons of gunpowder from Belgium, and for this the sanction of the Turkish Government has been obtained.

There are at present in Galatz 110 Russian volunteers, from Cubci, near Bolgradu. These men are not in uniform. They have been obliged to stop here from want of funds. The Russian Consul was informed, in reply to a telegram which he sent on the 10th instant, requesting instructions, that these men were in no way recognized, and that no assistance could be afforded them. Since then a credit of 100 napoleons has been opened for them by a Bulgarian banker in Bucharest with the Bank of Roumania at Galatz; but as this sum is not sufficient, they remain here, pending the receipt of a further amount.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 531.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 23.)

(No. 193.)

Budu-Pest, October 16, 1876.

Sir,

AS I hear that statements, based upon a week's rush through Servia, are being made in England amounting to an averment that Midhat Pasha was himself at the bottom of the Bulgarian conspiracy in May, I think it desirable to mention that a month ago I asked a Bulgarian insurrectionary leader whether, as Midhat Pasha had been so good a Governor of Bulgaria, the Bulgarians could not trust him to carry out all needed reforms for them?

He replied that Midhat Pasha was their greatest enemy, and, on my asking why, added: "Because he is the strength of Turkey, and is intelligent and clever, and understands. Without him the Turks would soon be lost, and we could more quickly get our independence."

I find here that this is in Bulgaria the general opinion of the insurrectionary Bulgarians; but that, on the other hand, there are many Bulgarians who appreciate the former administration and present good intentions of Midhat Pasha, and who do not thus regard him as an enemy to be destroyed. The fact, however, remains that, whereas five years ago only the schoolmasters conspired, now conspiracy prevades Bulgaria in consequence of the bad administration and the use made of it by foreign sympathy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 532.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 23.)

(No. 194.) *Buda-Pest, October* 10, 1876.

Sir,

IN to-day's "Pester Lloyd" their correspondent at Rustchuck writes on the 2nd instant, that the town had been in great excitement in consequence of the arrival of a ship of wounded Turkish soldiers, amongst whom were several who had been mutilated by the Servian soldiers, and that he himself had seen eight men whose noses, five men whose right ears, and three men whose left ears had been cut off, although these mutilated wounded tried usually to escape observation for fear of being considered to have in a cowardly manner allowed themselves to come into the power of their Servian enemies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 533.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 23.)

(No. 196. Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, October* 12, 1876.

Sir,

ACCORDING to the impression of an Hungarian gentleman, who has recently conversed with the chief officials of the War Department in Vienna, the official opinion is that the Austrian-Hungarian army is well prepared even for immediate war except in the new artillery, and that it would have much chance of success against the Russian army, which is ill prepared in all except its artillery. It appears moreover that the Uchatius artillery will all be ready by March, and that then the army will have a large park of reserve cannon in its present artillery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 534.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 23.)

(No. 197.) *Buda-Pest, October* 13, 1876.

Sir,

OFFICERS, who have recently returned here from service in the regiments of observation on the Turkish frontier, seem to know nothing of scenes of impalement, as related by Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl; and a cadet, who was constantly on the patrol service from opposite Bjelina upwards, positively declares that no such impalement ever took place on the frontier line.

Although this tends to show that there must be some strange mistake in the evidently sincere statements of those two gentlemen, yet, on the other hand, it does not exclude the possibility of impalement having been inflicted during the insurrection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 535.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October* 23.)

(No. 199.) *Buda-Pest, October* 14, 1876.

Sir,

SERMED EFFENDI has related to me what he saw last night of the mode of forwarding a party of Russians from the railway station to the Belgrade steamer.

He saw a company of thirty soldiers, probably of the artillery, in part uniform, commanded by a sergeant and two corporals in full uniform. The sergeant showed a red-cross passport for his company, and M. Blumer, the Russian Consul-General, bought for them their tickets at a third of the usual price on the faith of that passport.

There were also in the party several Russians, who might be surgeons or officers, and some hospital nuns.

It is natural that my Turkish colleague should exclaim against the procedure as an abuse of our Christian emblem—the Holy Cross—and it is not unnatural that he should have said to M. Blumer, discovered *in flagrante caritate*, that he was managing not a consular, but a military, agency in a neutral country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 536.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 733.) *Vienna, October* 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I ARRANGED yesterday morning with Baron Orczy, to send to him for transmission to Count Andrassy by telegraph, any answer which your Lordship might give to my telegram of the 17th instant, respecting a modified assent to the armistice suggested to his Government by Count Schouvaloff.

I, therefore, on the receipt of your telegram of yesterday on this subject, addressed to his Excellency the confidential letter, of which I inclose a copy, transmitting to him a memorandum, containing the substance of your Lordship's answer.

I mentioned at the same time that Prince Bismarck is stated at St. Petersburgh to have adhered to the Russian objections to the duration of the armistice, and that Lord Augustus Loftus had suggested that an armistice till the end of the year might possibly be satisfactory to all parties.

I also called Baron Orczy's attention, by the inclosure, to the statement of the Prince of Montenegro, reported in Mr. Monson's telegram of yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government have been represented to His Highness by Austria to be endeavouring at Constantinople to shorten the armistice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 536.

Sir A. Buchanan to Baron Orczy.

(Confidential.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876.

Dear Baron Orczy,

I INCLOSE herewith the substance of a telegram, which I have received this evening from Lord Derby, and which I will feel obliged by your communicating to Count Andrassy.

I hear from St. Petersburgh that Prince Bismarck has adhered to the Russian objections and Lord Augustus Loftus telegraphs that an armistice till the end of the year might, he thinks, be acceptable to all parties and prevent a Russian occupation of Turkish territory.

Monson informs me that the Prince of Montenegro has thanked him for "the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to shorten duration of the armistice as announced to him by Austria!"

How can this misunderstanding have arisen?

Yours, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 537.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 735.) *Vienna, October* 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne," containing the substance of an article which appeared two days ago in the "Pester Lloyd," on the course which Austria-Hungary ought to follow in the event of a Russian force entering Turkey. Your Lordship will learn from the inclosures, that this

allies at once. Count Andrassy recommends a policy of neutrality, as long as the object of Russian action is limited to obtaining for the Christian subjects of the Sultan, guarantees for an amelioration in their social position in the Empire.

As far as I can judge from the opinions of the persons with whom I have spoken on the subject, this is probably the attitude which the Government will adopt, and declining to be parties to any joint measures of occupation or of conquest in Turkey, they will await the course of events, before deciding on opposing the progress of the Russian army. It is not impossible, therefore, that some arrangement is now under consideration by which Russia may engage, if she enters Bulgaria, merely to occupy the Province to the north of the Balkan; and, as she is not likely to make war without seeking some accession of territory, that she may avoid raising an European question by reannexing Roumanian Bessarabia to the Empire, and satisfy herself with the acquisition of the long coveted port of Batoum, which, if I recollect rightly, it had been intended, should be included with her frontier in 1829.

On the other hand, should Russia commence a war of conquest in European Turkey, the interests and traditions of Austria-Hungary would evidently indicate that she should assist the Turks to defend their Empire, but in the present state of Europe, any action of this country against Russia cannot be decided at Vienna alone, but must be greatly influenced by the attitude of the Government at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 537.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne."

HONGRIE.—Le "Pester Lloyd" consacre à la situation un article dont voici le résumé. L'alliance des trois Empereurs a suffi pour ajourner le moment d'une conflagration générale. Toutefois il serait presque impossible, malgré cette alliance, d'obtenir une solution définitive de la question d'Orient par des moyens pacifiques. Il y a des gens qui croient encore à l'existence de cette alliance, qui désirent la neutralité, mais à certaines conditions. Quant à nous (le "Lloyd") nous ne voulons pas la guerre coûte que coûte; nous nous prononcerions pour la neutralité, si la Russie poursuivait le même but que la diplomatie, lequel consiste à obtenir des garanties assurant aux races une existence digne de l'homme, nous supposons naturellement que le Gouvernement aurait toujours la force et la volonté de s'opposer à d'autres démarches de la Russie. Car en Autriche-Hongrie on réprouve toute idée d'agression et une politique qui a contre elle l'opinion publique est impossible à maintenir. On ne pourrait absolument pas consentir à ce que la Russie jouât le rôle d'une protectrice du monde Slave, et fît une propagande qui gagnerait tôt ou tard des provinces de notre propre monarchie. Encore moins pourrait-on souffrir que la Russie bouleversât l'ordre des choses en Orient, brisât les moules existants, et en secouât le contenu pour créer de nouvelles institutions, pour "Russifier" l'Orient. Le "Lloyd" se déclare contre toute Convention qui assurerait à la Russie, à quelque prix que ce soit, la neutralité de l'Autriche-Hongrie, et appelle politique à courte vue celle qui tendrait à coopérer avec la Russie en vue d'un partage. L'Autriche-Hongrie ne pourrait, et ne devrait jamais, dans son propre intérêt, poursuivre en Orient une politique annexioniste, et toute concession que nous ferait la Russie à cet égard serait pour nous un cadeau aussi funeste que l'avait été le cheval de bois pour les Troyens.

No. 538.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 736.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 19, 1876.*

THE King of Greece arrived here last Monday, with the intention, it was said, of proceeding immediately to Athens. His Majesty, however, is still here, and is apparently waiting in the hope that he may be joined by the Queen, who has been detained at Copenhagen by the illness of one of the Royal Princes.

The King had a long interview with Count Andrassy before his Excellency went to Pesth; and His Majesty may possibly hope that, by remaining a few days longer, he may have an opportunity of expressing personally to the Emperor, who is expected here on

Sunday next, his trust that, in the event of any changes in Turkey, the interests of Greece will not be forgotten, and that the nation will be rewarded for the attitude which it has held during the last year in deference to the wishes of the Great Powers, and in the interest of peace.

I have had the honour of an audience of the King, in which he spoke to me in this sense, and of the irritation which is increasing among his subjects at the encouragement given to the Slavonic element in the population to become predominant in European Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 539.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Dresden, October 20, 1876.*

NOW that the public believes war to be imminent, the hope that Germany will leave the East to itself grows stronger and stronger. An efficacious public opinion does not, cannot, exist here; as far as the German people are concerned, Prince Bismarck is entirely free to choose between neutrality and action. But, as I have before had the honour to report, intelligent Germans are of opinion that although a Russian army on the Danube would be a great evil, the mobilisation, to say nothing of the active interference, of a German army to stop it would be considerably worse. Afterwards, should Constantinople be in immediate danger, or Austria severely defeated, other feelings might possibly arise.

Prince Bismarck's inactivity may furnish the opposition press with convenient sneers at Count Moltke's appeal on behalf of the septennial military budget, on the ground that Germany was the sentinel of Europe. But there is no sign anywhere of sympathy with the "Times" entreaty to the Chancellor to settle matters by an authoritative, categorical, prohibition of war. I observe that even journals extremely Turk in sentiment approve the remark of the "Kölnische Zeitung," itself ultra-Turk, that the Germans are not going to pull English chestnuts out of the fire at the suggestion of the "Times." I need hardly observe that Germany has not the slightest wish to promote English objects. There is no general desire whatever for an alliance with England. We have some friends, or, to be more accurate, some admirers, in the "Fortschritt" party; the nobility, courts, and Governments are well disposed. But these are sectional views, which do not amount to popular feeling. Language like that of the "Times" will check rather than promote their spread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 540.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 451.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 14, 1876.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of last night I called at once on Herr von Bülow and told his Excellency that your Lordship had begged of the German Ambassador, and had now instructed me to press strongly on the German Government, the importance of the armistice being accepted by the Russian Government, which there was reason to apprehend they were disposed to refuse.

I pointed out to Herr von Bülow the danger to European peace the refusal of the Czar to adhere to the armistice offered by the Porte would involve, and how much the great influence of Germany could achieve at this important juncture.

Herr von Bülow promised me to communicate your Lordship's message at once to the Chancellor, who would submit it to the Emperor without loss of time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 541.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 462. Confidential.)
Berlin, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated confidentially to Herr von Bülow for Prince Bismarck's information the substance of your Lordship's telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh recording the language which your Lordship used to Count Schouvaloff at the interview of the 14th instant.

His Excellency desired me to thank your Lordship in Prince Bismarck's name for this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 542.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 463. Very Confidential.)
Berlin, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Ambassador, who returned to his post on the 17th instant, told me privately and confidentially that he found to his great regret that the German Government appeared more favourably disposed to Russia than to Austria at present, which he attributed to the influence of the personal feelings of friendship and sympathy which attach the Emperor William to his nephew the Emperor Alexander.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 543.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 464.)
Berlin, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

GENERAL VON SCHWEINITZ, the German Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who was sent by Prince Bismarck on the 15th instant from Varzin to Baden to receive the Emperor's commands before returning to his post, and who arrived in Berlin on the 18th instant, has now been instructed to await the Emperor's return to Berlin on the 21st instant before taking his departure for Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 544.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 465. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, October 20, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 659, of the 17th instant, just received, asking me whether I am able to explain the apparent confusion with respect to the attitude of Prince Bismarck as regards the acceptance of the Turkish proposal for an armistice of five months, I have the honour to state that the German Government were in favour of the armistice as proposed by Her Majesty's Government and agreed to by the Powers, and urged its acceptance on the Servian Government through their Agent and Consul-General, who was instructed to act in concert with his colleagues of Austria and England at Belgrade.

Prince Bismarck had no objection to the Turkish proposal to prolong the armistice from one to five months, but when the Russian objections were submitted to the German Emperor at Baden, His Majesty was loth to press the matter against the wishes of his nephew the Czar.

The distance between Baden, Varzin, and Berlin was the cause of delay, and it was not until the Emperor's decision was brought by General von Schweinitz from Baden to Berlin on the 18th instant that the German Ambassador at London was instructed to state to your Lordship that "although the German Government were of opinion that the armistice of five months appeared to them acceptable, and that they wished Russia had accepted it, they did not think themselves justified to exercise pressure on the resolutions of other Powers," &c.

On the morning of the 13th instant I met Herr von Bülow, and was told by His Excellency that the German Government had urged the acceptance of the armistice on Servia, which left the impression on my mind that the acceptance of the armistice was absolute, and I telegraphed under that impression to your Lordship.

Later in the afternoon I called at the Foreign Office to communicate your Lordship's telegram of the 11th officially to his Excellency; and after repeating that the Servian Government had been urged to accept the armistice, he added that the conditions were not yet known, but that the proposed period of its duration might be objected to at Vienna and in Russia. The German Government had no wish to raise objections or to add to existing difficulties, and would, therefore, reserve their opinion until they had received more detailed reports from Constantinople, and until they were in possession of the views of the guaranteeing Powers.

I did not understand this reservation to apply to the acceptance in principle of the armistice, but to the mode of meeting and dealing with the possible objections of other Powers; and I believe that the German Government would have continued to urge its acceptance if the Emperor had not finally intimated at Baden, through General von Schweinitz, his wish not to adopt a course which would give pain to his nephew the Czar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 545.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 466.)
Berlin, October 20, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE spoken to Herr von Bülow on the subject of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 650 and 657 of the 14th instant, respecting the appointment of officers duly qualified and properly instructed to concert the details of the armistice as suggested by the Ambassadors at Constantinople to their respective Governments, and said that Her Majesty's Government were ready to appoint at once officers to the Turkish and Servian armies as well as to that of Montenegro.

Herr von Bülow said that the German Government would be equally ready to take part in these arrangements when the armistice had been definitively accepted by all the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 546.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 468. Secret.)
Berlin, October 20, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE carefully explained to Herr von Bülow, as directed by your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, and subsequent despatch No. 655 of the same date, the circumstances connected with the instructions of the 5th instant to Sir Henry Elliot that his Excellency should leave Constantinople for a time if the Porte formally refused to accept the terms of peace proposed by the Powers or to grant an armistice for not less than a month.

I said that no diplomatic rupture was intended, only a demonstration to show displeasure on the part of England, and that the Embassy would have remained under the direction of the First Secretary. These instructions had not even been communicated to the Powers, with the sole exception, of course, of the German Government,

and the contrary impression which had previously prevailed at the Berlin Foreign Office was, therefore, entirely incorrect.

Herr von Bülow requested me to thank your Lordship for these further explanations, which he valued and appreciated as a proof of the cordial understanding which united our Governments, and to say that it was to the anxious desire of the German Government to perpetuate those valuable relations that the surprise must be attributed which was felt at the Berlin Foreign Office when telegrams, arriving simultaneously from Turkey, Russia, and Italy announced that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was instructed to take so serious a step without the knowledge of the German Government, which had so often expressed the wish to act as far as possible in concert with that of England.

I replied that it was the earnest wish of Her Majesty's Government, as I had so often told Prince Bismarck and his Excellency, to act in concert with the German Government, and I felt sure that the Emperor's final decision not to press the acceptance of the armistice on the Czar in the general interest of peace would be sincerely regretted at home.

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government thought that the next step in the direction of a permanent pacification would be the assembly of a Conference, an idea which Prince Bismarck was reported not to entertain favourably. Your Lordship was, therefore, led to suppose that his Highness probably had some alternative plan in view, the nature of which it would be important for Her Majesty's Government to know, and your Lordship had, therefore, instructed me to consult Prince Bismarck confidentially as to what course, in his opinion, would be best suited to secure a general agreement among the Powers if the plan of a Conference was rejected.

M. de Bülow, in thanking me for my communication, promised to convey your Lordship's query confidentially to the Chancellor at Varzin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 547.

Consul Annesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 1. Political.)

Hamburgh, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that an article appeared last night in the "Börsen-Halle," the commercial paper of Hamburgh, in reply to a leading article of the "Times" newspaper of the 16th instant advocating German mediation with Russia on behalf of the peace of Europe, and I beg leave to inclose a copy of the paper with a translation of the article referred to.

At the same time I have the honour to remark that there seems no probability that the German Government will feel disposed to interfere, on the ground that France would take advantage of any difficulty in which Germany might find herself, to take revenge for the losses suffered in 1870-71.

The German people are peaceably disposed, and would only fight for their own defence, but there is an opinion current in the higher circles that Germany may eventually profit by the opportunity of aggrandizing herself at the expense of Austria, should that Empire augment its territory by retaining permanent possession of the Turkish provinces which it has been proposed that she should occupy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE ANNESLEY.

Inclosure in No. 547.

Extract from the Hamburgh "Börsen-Halle" of October 18, 1876.

ENGLAND, GERMANY, AND THE CRISIS IN THE EAST.—We print below the article from the "Times" mentioned in our telegraphic summary yesterday, to afford our readers an opportunity of following the arguments by which the leading journal of England seeks to convince itself, we Germans, and the world at large, that it is the duty of Germany to take upon herself the whole burden of Oriental complications, and compel Russia to halt in her forward march. This is the second attempt of that journal in the same

direction within the last few days, and as it appears that the unanimity with which the German press declined the first offer of this dangerous honour has not produced any effect in the editorial department of the London journal, it may be well in order to prevent the spread of any erroneous impressions in England, the consequences of which might be serious, that the German reply should be repeated, and with the greatest possible clearness, that there may be no danger of the slightest misconception in future.

What the "Times" requires of us is briefly this: That Germany should say to the policy of Russia, which is becoming daily more unmistakeable, "Hitherto shalt thou come and no farther!" and should declare that she will, by force if necessary, resist any advance of Russia across the Danube. Upon which Russia would retreat precipitately, and the peace of the world would be preserved.

The "Times" explains to us that we can show the world this little service without any danger to ourselves, as Russia, in the consciousness of the present power of Germany, would not think of resistance, and Germany would therefore give a proof of extraordinary hardness of heart were she to refuse to accept the post of mediator on such easy terms. We Germans must however think a little further, and consider the possibility that Russia might not attend without hesitation to a German warning, request, threat, or whatever it might be called—and what then?

Simply this: in that case Germany would have incurred the whole weight of Russia's opposition, and considering the present excited feeling of the Slavonic world, would have to carry on a bitter and doubtful war with the certainty that England would leave her in the lurch. The "Times" informs us that the defence of the Lower Danube is a matter for Germany and Austria, and that England is to a much smaller degree interested in the Eastern question than the other European Powers. From this new discovery, the "Times," and with it the great majority of the English people, at the very moment that England had succeeded in involving Russia in difficulties with one continental Power with another, would draw the deduction (so often varied during the last ten years) that England had no business whatever to interfere in continental affairs, and that the interests of her trade would be best promoted by acting the part of contractor to both the combatants. In a speech in the House of Commons John Bright had once the good taste to remark that England ought not to interfere if the wild beasts in the continental cage should fall out and tear each other to pieces. In this picture the continental nations of Europe are represented by the wild beasts, while the sea forms the secure cage which protects England while looking on from the danger of an accidental blow.

This way of looking at the subject is engrained in the very flesh and blood of the English people. The recent mass meetings, so far as they have not been actuated by the party manœuvre of endeavouring to overturn the Tory Ministry, have had almost entirely for their object to dissuade the Government from active intervention. It will, however, not surprise the English, if they calmly consider the matter, to find that we Germans are not disposed to play the part assigned to us of inmates of a menagerie, whose business it is to tear each other to pieces for the amusement of the spectators.

The reasons that prevent Germany from acceding to the wish of the "Times" are easily expressed. In the first place we are inexorably convinced that England has interests in the East with the vital importance of which ours have no comparison. In the beginning of this year a discussion took place in a military scientific society in London upon the importance to England of the maintenance of the integrity of the Turkish Empire. A number of leading military men, chiefly from India, took part in the discussion, and one of them put the question of the evening in this form:—"Would it be easier to defend the Suez Canal, our communication with India, if a Turkish or a Russian army occupied Syria?" The speaker called attention to the fact, too little regarded in general, that in its wars with Turkey, Russia had made its most valuable and permanent conquests not in Europe, but in Asia Minor, and that the death-blow to Constantinople would be given, not from Widdin and Silistria, but from Erzeroum and Kars. The English interests here affected are apparent to the faintest vision, and England must therefore lead the way before she can call upon other Powers to resist Russian progress.

Besides this, Germany has a special reason to abstain from active intervention in Eastern affairs. The "Times" tries to convince us that if we do not oppose Russia, we shall run the risk of war with France. We, however, are of the opposite opinion, and think that discord between Germany and Russia would furnish the occasion for revenge for which France has waited so long. And here, again, it is evident that England has only herself to thank that she is now so helpless and alone in counsel and action against Russia. Had England but spoken earnestly in the first two weeks of July 1870, when war

against Germany was so unjustifiably fomented in Paris, and played the part towards the French Government which the "Times" urges us to do towards Russia, the Franco-German war, and the political changes brought about by it, would very likely have been prevented.

England could very well have taken this step, because it would not have involved her in the least danger. But with the first shot between France and Germany the previous political system of Europe crumbled into ruins. Had France been victorious and taken the left bank of the Rhine, she would have made an enemy of Germany, which would have rendered impossible any engagement of France in future. But now that the fortune of war has been on our side, it is consideration for France which makes the most peaceful policy a desirable one for us under all circumstances. Russia gains the advantage of this change by feeling her hands free. It is quite natural that England should be highly displeased at a result which is gradually becoming more apparent, but we cannot alter it.

Finally, England does not seem to comprehend that the recollection of the 148,000 who, six years ago, sacrificed life and health on the battle-fields of France, is still strong enough in Germany to remove all love of warlike adventures for other people's benefit. If the defence of the Fatherland requires it, Germany will be ready to make such sacrifices again; but until this need is proved, the whole people of Germany—we believe we may speak boldly—are firmly resolved to spare the blood of her sons. This resolution the "Times" will not be able to alter were it to write half-a-dozen leading articles. We regard it as one of the chief advantages of our newly-acquired Imperial unity that it has removed the danger of our being involved in sacrifices for purposes that are either not German at all, or only in a secondary degree, and the sooner and the more completely this change in the position of Germany is understood in England, the better it will be for her, and perhaps also for the preservation of the peace of Europe.

No. 548.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 897.) *Paris, October 22, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 773 of the 14th ultimo, No. 795 of the 19th ultimo, No. 847 of the 7th ultimo, and No. 895 of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of communications, professing devotion to France, which have been published in the newspapers by M. Rosetti, who, as your Lordship knows, is here on a kind of special mission from the Government of Roumania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 548.

Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of October 21, 1876.

DIVERS bruits inexacts et malveillants ont été mis récemment en circulation au sujet de l'attitude du Gouvernement Roumain.

"Les Tablettes d'un Spectateur" se déclarent autorisées à les démentir de la manière suivante :—

"1. Aucune Convention n'a été signée à Livadia entre le Prince Gortchakow et M. Bratiano.

"2. La Bukowine et la Transylvanie sont certainement des pays Roumains, mais la Transylvanie fait partie intégrante du Royaume de Saint Etienne, c'est-à-dire de l'Etat Hongrois. Il faut ne pas connaître le premier mot de l'histoire et de l'état des esprits en Hongrie pour s'imaginer que l'Empereur François-Joseph oserait disposer de pays que les Hongrois considèrent comme leur propriété. Pour arrondir la Roumanie de la Bukowine et de la Transylvanie, il faut, ou que l'Autriche-Hongrie, avec la Turquie, disparaissent de la carte de l'Europe, ou que François-Joseph se résigne à affronter les périls d'un effroyable soulèvement du peuple Magyar. Les Roumains savent tout cela, et M. Bratiano n'a pu commettre l'enfantillage d'accepter des compensations illusoires.

"3. Si, à Livadia, on avait conclu la Convention dont on parle, ce ne serait pas le Prince Charles, mais le Parlement de Bucharest qui aurait qualité pour la ratifier.

Or, ce Parlement la rejetterait avec indignation. Les représentants du peuple Roumain n'accepteraient que des arrangements qui agréeraient à l'Europe occidentale, et particulièrement à la France.

"4. L'affirmation que M. Rosetti, Président de la Chambre Roumain, en mission extraordinaire auprès du Gouvernement Français, vient d'être appelé à Bucharest, qu'il vient de partir et que nos cercles diplomatiques s'aperçoivent que la présence de M. Rosetti était une feinte et une duperie—cette affirmation est à la fois une inexactitude, une injustice et une inconvenance.

"Voici la dépêche télégraphique qui nous est adressée par l'illustre patriote et publiciste, l'éminent Président de la Chambre Roumain, envoyé en mission extraordinaire auprès du Gouvernement Français :—

"'*Paris, le 19 Octobre*, 10 *h.* 40.

"'A Paris je suis et je reste; démentez et affirmez que la Roumanie n'a jamais trompé, même ses ennemis. Malgré la gravité des circonstances, les Roumains sont restés corrects. Affirmez de ma part, également, que, même si les événements nous forçaient à parer aux dangers du jour, le grand parti national est et sera toujours dévoué à la France.

(Signé) "'ROSETTI.'"

Inclosure 2 in No. 548.

Extract from "La France" of October 21, 1876.

NOUS avons reçu hier, trop tard pour l'insérer, la lettre qu'on va lire :—

"*Paris, le 19 Octobre*, 1876.

"A M. le Directeur du journal 'La France.'

"Monsieur,

"Permettez-moi de relever quelques passages de votre article d'hier, sous la rubrique 'Dernière heure.'

"Je ne sais absolument rien, au sujet du Traité que vous dites avoir été conclu entre l'Empereur Alexandre et le Prince Charles, et n'y croyant même pas, j'en laisse la responsabilité à celui qui vous a donné cette nouvelle.

"Mais ce que je sais, ce que j'affirme hautement, Monsieur, c'est qu'il n'y a rien de fondé dans ce que vous dites, dans votre dernier paragraphe, quant aux intentions de mon pays, de mon rappel à Bukarest et du but qu'il vous plaît de donner à ma mission auprès du Gouvernement Français.

"Non, Monsieur, la Roumanie n'a jamais vacillé dans ses sentiments de profond dévouement et de respect pour la France, qu'elle considère comme une bienfaitrice, et je déclare que, *quelles que soient les vicissitudes que les événements nous imposeraient dans l'épreuve douloureuse que nous traversons*, le grand parti national Roumain est et restera dévoué à la nation Française.

"Quant à ce qui me concerne personnellement, je crois, Monsieur, que m'adressant à vous, il me suffit de dire qu'il m'est bien pénible, après une carrière politique de trente ans, honoré de l'estime de plusieurs des grands hommes de votre pays, d'être forcé, par un homme aussi éminent que vous, de protester contre l'accusation dont on a osé vous faire l'écho.

"Plein de confiance dans votre grande impartialité, Monsieur, j'aime à compter sur l'insertion prochaine de ces lignes, et vous prie d'agréer l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

(Signé) "C. A. ROSETTI."

Les trois lignes que nous avons soulignées confirment nos renseignements généraux sur l'attitude actuelle et sur l'attitude prochaine de la Roumanie. Quant aux sentiments personnels de M. Rosetti, nous avons jamais songé à les mettre en cause, et nous convenons sans peine qu'ils sont des plus sympathiques à la France.

No. 549.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876, 10·45 P.M.*

SOME days ago, speaking for myself, as I said, and without instructions, I strongly recommended the Porte to express itself ready to accept the shorter armistice demanded by Russia, provided it was coupled with an engagement that it should be extended for a similar term if the negotiations were not concluded before it expires.

The advice has been acted upon.

When General Ignatiew called upon the Grand Vizier to-day, his Highness told him that he would agree to an armistice of six weeks on condition that if the negotiations were not ended by that time it should be renewed for a similar term, without a shot being fired on either side, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

General Ignatiew said that he would take the proposal into consideration.

It appears impossible for the Porte to do more.

No. 550.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, Her Majesty's Government are unable at present to pronounce an opinion on the very grave question referred to in the Due Decazes' inquiry.

No. 551.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 23, 1876, 3 P.M.*

THE Italian Minister at Constantinople telegraphs, under date of the day before yesterday, that General Ignatiew called upon him after seeing the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and said he was in hopes the Porte would accept six weeks' armistice.

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs declares most positively that Italy has no engagement with any foreign Power, and only seeks the maintenance of peace.

No. 552.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 5·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 20th, I have never agreed to, much less suggested, any Conference from which the Porte should be excluded. I have mentioned Constantinople as the place where it might be held, but that question remains open. I have not pledged Her Majesty's Government to the selection of any particular place.

No. 553.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 669.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

YOUR telegram of the 20th instant has been received.

I have to point out to your Excellency that I have never agreed to any Conference from which the Porte should be excluded; still less have I suggested such a course.

Though I have mentioned Constantinople as the place where a Conference might

* Repeated to Embassies.

be held, the question of locality remains quite open; and I have not pledged Her Majesty's Government to the selection of any particular place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 554.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st, I doubt whether Montenegro would conclude a separate peace, but before considering any instructions to Mr. Monson it would be necessary to know what territorial concessions the Porte would be prepared to make to Montenegro.

No. 555.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 668.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

YOUR telegram of the 21st instant has been received.

I doubt whether, under present circumstances, Montenegro would conclude a separate peace, but in any case it is necessary that Her Majesty's Government should be informed what territorial concessions, if any, the Porte is prepared to make to Prince Nicholas, before they can consider the question of instructing Mr. Monson to facilitate such an arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 556.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 454.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

I APPROVE the note addressed by your Excellency to Count Andrassy, copy of which was inclosed in your No. 703 of the 12th instant, urging upon him, in compliance with the instructions which you had received, the importance of every effort being used by Austria-Hungary to induce Servia to accept the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 557.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1876.*

I AWAITED messenger last night, and shall leave to-night. Shall arrive at Yalta on Friday. Shortest line for messenger is between Cracow and Odessa. Boats leave Odessa on Mondays and Thursdays at 2 o'clock. Perhaps combination with Vienna messenger desirable.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 558.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

"Prince Nicholas summoned the foreign Agents this afternoon, and requested us to telegraph to our respective Governments that, in reliance on Servia, he would accept the armistice for six weeks only. He referred to the military reasons for this decision, especially the capitulation of Medun and the retreat of Dervish Pasha, which will enable him to recommence the offensive.

"His Highness intimated that, if the armistice is not arranged by the end of October, so as to suspend hostilities till the 15th of December, he shall consider negotiations at an end, and make his military preparations accordingly.

"He can now send nine more battalions to the Herzegovina."

No. 559.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 55.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your despatch, Political, No. 18 of the 5th instant, reporting your conversation with M. Jonesco on the position of the Moldo-Wallachian Principalities; and I have to instruct you to continue to recommend to the Government at Bucharest to preserve a prudent attitude, and to keep frankly to the obligations imposed upon them by the Treaties under which the Principalities have been constituted, and which afford them the best security for the protection of their national interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 560.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1876.*

PRINCE JOHN GHIKA is expected here on his way to England, charged with a mission to Her Majesty's Government.

I am told by the Roumanian Agent here that he is to inquire whether the Guaranteeing Powers will support Roumanian Army in resisting the entrance of Russian troops into the Principalities, as if the country is to defend itself it may have to make the best terms it can with Russia.

He says Roumania could add 60,000 good troops to an Austrian force acting against Russia.

No. 561.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 21. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 13, 1876.*

M. JONESCO called upon me yesterday, stating that he was informed, that one of the conditions of the armistice was, that Servia should receive no aid in money, men, or munitions of war, during a period of six months; and that in such a case, if it was desired by the Great Powers, the Roumanian Government would be prepared to co-operate in preventing the passage of volunteers.

I pointed out to M. Jonesco, that even if Russia desired to prevent the passage of her volunteers, it would be difficult to do so, except in the case of persons in the Government service; that there were Italian and other volunteers in Servia, and that such a condition must inevitably break down, for short of a cordon round the Servian frontier,

nothing could prevent independent persons, of any nationality, from passing their winter in Servia, if so minded; and who could prevent money being transmitted?

I had much reluctance in telegraphing to your Lordship, but on reflecting that this Government has no Agent in London, and that M. Jonesco so much pressed me to do so, I came to the conclusion that I was hardly justified in making a refusal.

M. Jonesco then digressed into all sorts of topics, saying that the Roumanian Government clings to the Western Powers, and more especially to England, &c.

I replied that to speak of the Western Powers was somewhat of an anachronism, that the Roumanian Government was wrong in laying so much stress on their reliance on England alone, that they had to do with six Guaranteeing Powers, and that it was ill-advised to appear to draw distinctions; that whatever might be the talk of the newspapers, the Roumanian Government had nothing to do with any supposed divergence between the policy of St. Petersburgh and that of Her Majesty's Government, that such language was uncalled for, and likely to cause inconvenience.

I continued that I regretted to observe a desire to do something on the part of this Government; that the mission to Livadia had been made with a flourish, which I thought unwise; that the assembling of the troops, just at the same moment was equally so; and that, now, this desire of Roumania to make herself conspicuous would be productive of no advantage to any side.

At this moment Baron Calice, the Austrian Agent, came in; he had just arrived from Vienna, and remarked to M. Jonesco, with a tinge of sarcasm, that the most alarming news he had heard in Austria, was the mobilisation of the Roumanian army.

The Baron, curiously enough, then proceeded to express himself almost in the same language as I had just been using, except that the Baron assumed a distinct tone of rebuke.

He said that Roumania had gained the approval of various Governments by remaining aloof from the Eastern complications, but that she would lose the advantages of her policy if she began to put herself forward, and would not now gain credit even in the quarter where there was most to fear.

He drew the parallel of a person in the middle of a crowded crossing, who by remaining stationary undergoes no danger, but risks to be run over if he begins to shriek, and run hither and thither.

Later in the day I saw the Russian Agent; I did not mention my conversation with M. Jonesco and Baron Calice, but Baron Stuart spoke of the present attitude of this Government in quite the same sense as Baron Calice and I had viewed the matter.

With respect to the Russian volunteers, he says that the numbers are immensely exaggerated; that it would be very easy to obtain even a nominal roll of the Russians now resident in Servia; that, no doubt, Mr. White knew, almost to a man, the exact number; and that he had every reason to believe that it would be found, on investigation, that the volunteers from other nationalities, Austrians, Servians, and Croats, Italians, and adventurers of all sorts, formed a good 25 to 30 per cent. of the foreigners serving in Prince Milan's army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 562.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 22. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 14, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Vice-Consul Brown's weekly report on the movement of troops, volunteers, &c., passing Ibraila.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 562.

Vice-Consul Brown to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Ibraila, October 13, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward you the weekly list of Russian troops passing Ibraila, since my last despatch of the 6th instant.

			Men.
Sunday,	8th October	..	240
Monday,	9th "	..	60
Tuesday,	10th "	..	130
Wednesday,	11th "	..	22
Thursday,	12th "	..	275
Friday,	13th "	..	70
	Total	..	797

The Wallachian border troops (Granziere) of the Ibraila district, about 200 in number, left Ibraila this morning for the interior, said to be for autumn manœuvre. The troops of the line are said to be under orders to follow for Tecuiz.

By the train of the 11th instant a quantity of influential Russian, Servian, and Montenegrin private gentlemen passed on to Bucharest, and, during their few hours stay here, were entertained by the Bulgarian-Servian Committee of Ibraila.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. BROWN.

No. 563.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 43.) *Tunis, October* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 23 of the 27th of September, giving cover to a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had addressed to Mr. Mallet relative to the information which General Menabrea had received by telegraph, to the effect that the majority of the Council of Ministers of the Sublime Porte had proposed the deposition of the Bey of Tunis and the substitution in his place of a Turkish Governor.

The French Ambassador, having been informed of this deliberation, had ordered the French squadron to proceed to Tunis.

General Menabrea stated, moreover, that this news came from Tunis; but that his Excellency was not aware how far the report was true.

In reply, I beg respectfully to state that I have endeavoured, in an unostentatious manner, to ascertain whether there were any grounds for the report, but there does not appear that there is any foundation for it whatsoever.

The Bey sent an Envoy to convey His Highness' congratulations to the ex-Sultan Murad, who reached Constantinople in June, and only returned here on the 2nd September last.

On the 11th of July the French squadron visited Tunis, and it is difficult to suppose that the Bey's Envoy should not have heard, during his residence of two months at the capital, any project or deliberation of the Ottoman Ministers regarding so serious a matter as the deposition of his master.

General Rustem has since returned to Constantinople with a similar mission to Sultan Abdul Hamid. He is at the present moment at the capital, but no information has been received from him of the nature which has reached General Menabrea; and, indeed, it is highly improbable that the Porte should contemplate, in the present state of its affairs, a violation of the Firman of 1871, which secures the hereditary right to the Hasseinite family, aware, as the Porte must be, that it would lead to serious complications.

It would seem, however, that the French Government, under the impression that there was no precedent for sending an envoy to Constantinople on the accession of a new Sultan, was displeased with General Khaïreddin for having recommended to the Bey to send one on the accession of the Sultan Murad and Abdul Hamid; but it was explained to the French Government that, on the two present occasions, His Highness had strictly adhered to the etiquette which had always been observed on the accession of a Sultan, and which was observed on the proclamation of Sultan Abdul Medjid in 1861.

On that occasion the French Representative here did not give correct information to

No. 565A.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 672.)

Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to signify her commands that Colonel Lennox, R.E., should be temporarily attached to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

Your Excellency will accordingly consider Colonel Lennox as forming part of your Diplomatic Establishment, and you will employ him in the business of the Embassy in whatever way you may deem most beneficial for Her Majesty's service.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 565B.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of his Lordship's recommendation of you for the appointment of Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 565C.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that your duties, as Military Attaché at Constantinople, will be to report on all matters of interest relating to military affairs in Turkey, and you will address your reports to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, by whom they will be transmitted to this Office.

I am at the same time to refer you to the War Office for any further information you may be desirous of obtaining in regard to your appointment.

I am further to request that you will be so good as to proceed to your post at your earliest convenience.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

his Government, which induced it to believe that the Tunisian Government had established a new custom, owing to the Firman of 1871.

My French colleague has assured me that the visit of the French squadron had no other object than to display the French flag in Tunisian waters; and the Prime Minister has distinctly stated to me that, during his stay here, Admiral Rose touched upon no political subject in his conversations with the Bey and himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 564.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 899.)

Paris, October 23, 1876.

My Lord,

IN your despatch No. 905 of the 14th instant, your Lordship did me the honour to inform me that Her Majesty's Government were ready to appoint officers to settle the details of an armistice.

The Duc Decazes told me the day before yesterday that soon after the Porte had announced its willingness to establish the six months' armistice, he had sent to Constantinople instructions authorizing the Military Attaché to the French Embassy there to act as French Commissioner for settling the details thereof.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 565.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Pressing and Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 14th instant, marked Pressing, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy that his Lordship is very desirous of receiving an early answer to the suggestions contained therein, with regard to the nomination of British officers as Military Delegates at the Turkish, Servian, and Montenegrin headquarters, for the purpose of concerting with the several Commanders-in-chief the terms of an armistice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

[For Nos. 565A, 565B, and 565C, see page 283*.]

No. 566.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Pressing.)

Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.

Sir,

THE Queen having been pleased to approve the nomination of Colonel Lennox, R.E., to be Military Attaché at Constantinople, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Hardy, the accompanying copies of the instructions addressed to that officer on his appointment.*

I am to add that Lord Derby presumes that the appointment of Colonel Lennox will not interfere, at all events for the present, with the employment of Major-General Sir A. Kemball at the Turkish head-quarters.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* Nos. 565B and 565C.

No. 567.

Mr. Daria to the Earl of Derby.—*(Received October 24, 12·29 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1876, 5 P.M.*

I HAVE seen Minister of Finance, who returned yesterday from Livadia.

He says that present position cannot continue without danger both internally and externally. Russia wants no territorial acquisition, but she must insist on obtaining for the three provinces the terms of peace proposed to the Porte by your Lordship, not in words, but as facts.

The position admits of no further delay. Roumania and Greece are moving, and if present concessions by the Porte are refused and the area of the war is extended, greater concessions will be later exacted.

Porte may possibly satisfy the present Russian exigencies by accepting the Protocol as suggested by your Lordship, and granting an armistice of two months. If the Porte declines, Russian military action is inevitable.

Preparations for war are actively making here.

No. 568.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received October 24, 10·55 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 23, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE asked Minister for Foreign Affairs whether General Ignatiew had given him any intimation of what his Government would expect with regard to the insurgent provinces.

His Excellency replied that the General said that special arrangements would be required in favour of those provinces; that the Porte would be free afterwards to apply those arrangements to other parts of the Empire, but that a general measure applicable to all could not be accepted.

If this is insisted upon, it will be a direct encouragement to insurrection.

No. 569.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received October 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 23, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW tells people here that he expects the question of the armistice to be arranged, but that his instructions with regard to the Christians of the revolted provinces are imperative, and that the Emperor is determined to insist on autonomy, whatever the other Powers may do.

No. 570.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 23, 1876, 10·30 P.M.*

A CONSPIRACY has been discovered against the Ministers who are supposed to be most favourable to granting equal rights to the Christians.

Some of those engaged in it were persons of a certain position among the Ulema, one of them having once been fixed upon as Sheik-ul-Islam.

About ten have been arrested and exiled.

They are partisans of Mahmoud Pasha, late Grand Vizier, and, according to one version, they proposed to dethrone the Sultan and replace him by the son of Abdul Aziz.

They proposed forcibly to seize the flag of the Prophet, and a religious war would have ensued.

That such a conspiracy should have been formed proves the necessity of caution in pressing the Porte on the question of reforms.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 571.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received October 24, 2·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 24, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

IN answer to proposal of the Grand Vizier about armistice, General Ignatiew says that he would accept such an arrangement with the following wording respecting its prolongation:—

"If, within the term of six weeks, the desired result is not obtained, the Powers will agree ('conviendraient') to renew it for six more weeks, 'quittes' to a renewal of it a third time for two months if the necessity for it is recognised."

Porte wishes both parties to be bound to prolong the armistice if negotiations are not completed, and fears that General Ignatiew's form would expose it to the chance of being told, at the expiration of the first term, that Servia refused to follow advice of the Powers to prolong it.

As it will be impossible for the Turkish troops to remain long in their present positions, it will be better for the Porte that the armistice, as proposed by General Ignatiew, should be accepted before it has to withdraw them, and I have expressed this as my personal opinion. The success of the Montenegrins also renders it very desirable.

No. 572.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24, 1·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 24, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

VICE-CONSUL at Sulina says that it is reported there that twenty Danubian pilots have been engaged by the Russian authorities.

No. 573.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 24, 1876, 6·48 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have received Mr. Baring's Report, inclosed in your No. 1148 of 13th instant, with great concern, as it shows that the Commission under Sadoullah Bey does not promise to be of real service.

You cannot urge too strongly upon the Porte, in bringing to their notice Mr. Baring's statements, the necessity of taking effective measures to afford redress, execute justice, and provide at once for the protection of the Christians.

You should at the same time point out the illusory character of the inquiry, which seems to be little better than that of Edib Effendi.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the representations you have made to the Sultan may be acted on, as otherwise the results as regards the relations between Her Majesty's Government and the Porte may be serious.

No. 574.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 697.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 24, 1876.*

YOUR despatch No. 1148 of the 13th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that I have read Mr. Baring's Report with great concern, as it shows that the Commission under Sadoullah Bey does not promise to be of real service.

You should bring to the notice of the Porte Mr. Baring's statements, and you cannot urge too strongly the necessity of their taking effective measures to afford redress, execute justice, and provide at once for the protection of the Christians.

I have to instruct you to point out, at the same time, the illusory character of the inquiry, which seems to be little better than that of Edib Effendi.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the representations you have made to the

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

Sultan may be acted on without delay, as otherwise the results as regards the relations between Great Britain and the Porte may be serious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 575.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 14. Political. Confidential.)
Odessa, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the following batteries have been ordered to be immediately placed:—

1. A battery of six guns six versts west of Ochakoff, on the bluff overlooking the sea.
2. A battery of six guns three versts west of Ochakoff.
3. A battery of three guns close to the town of Ochakoff.
4. A battery of six guns on the artificial island in the entrance to Dnieper Bay.

The above twenty-one guns are expected to be in position in six weeks.

Their bore is 9 inches.

The following is a translation of a paragraph in the "Odessa Vestnick" of this day:—

"We are informed that the Government has contracted with the engineer Schevtsoff, of this town, for erection of fortifications near Odessa. In view of the urgency of the works, 5,000 workmen are indispensable, and the greater part of them is expected from the Government of Kief."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 576.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 70. Political.)
Salonica, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit inclosed herewith a copy of a letter which I addressed yesterday to the Pasha of Salonica, with a copy of the reply which I have received from him, respecting a Bulgarian girl who has been carried off from Batak by a Mahommedan of Nevrocop, who is trying to convert her to Mahommedanism.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 576.

Consul Blunt to Eshref Pasha.

Salonique, le 12 *Octobre*, 1876.

JE viens d'apprendre d'une source que je crois être sûre, qu'une fille Bulgare, âgée de dix-huit à dix-neuf ans, se trouve actuellement à Nevrocop dans la maison d'un Mahométan, qui l'avait enlevé de Batak, et qui tache à la convertir au Mahométanisme.

J'invite donc votre Excellence d'envoyer les ordres les plus formels aux autorités de Nevrocop de faire trouver cette fille et de l'envoyer à Salonique pour qu'elle soit restorée à ses parents.

Je demande, en outre, que l'individu qui a enlevé cette fille soit sevèrement puni.

(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 576.

Eshref Pasha to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *Salonique, 28 Ramazan*, 1293 (*le* 12 *Octobre*, 1876).

EN réponse à votre communication de cette date je m'empresse de vous informer que j'ai transmis les ordres les plus severs au Gouverneur de Serres de prendre immédiatement des mesures pour trouver la fille Bulgare de Batak, qui aurait été enlevée et amenée à Nevrocop, et l'expédier à Salonique; et aussi de découvrir et arrêter l'individu qui aurait enlevé cette fille.

Me reservant de vous communiquer le résultat de ces ordres, j'ai, &c.
(Signé) ESHREF.

No. 577.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 50. Political.)
Bosna Serai, October 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 3rd instant, received by last post from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the deplorable state of the Administration in the Herzegovina.

Ali Pasha the Governor, late Turkish Ambassador at Paris, is a most enlightened, amiable, and liberal Turk, but without the energy and courage necessary to his position in the Herzegovina. What little of these qualities he may possess is also totally extinguished by the feeling of his entire want of power to cope with the difficulties by which he is surrounded. He feels himself utterly impotent and useless, and his only personal interest is to quit as soon as possible a position disagreeable in itself, and ruinous to his reputation for capacity and intelligence. He therefore allows the ignorant native Medjlisses and subordinate functionaries to follow their own devices, inspired by fanaticism, injustice and venality. This constantly recurring occurrence of even good men proving useless, shows how needful is a total change in the administration, such as I have before suggested, which, by making it a Governor's personal interest to exert all his energy in the direction of general improvement, and conferring on him real power to carry out his projects, would tend to make even bad men good, and good men better, and is unboubtedly the only way by which any large and enduring measure of reform, or any progress in civilization can possibly be hoped for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Sir H. Elliot.

Mostar, October 3, 1876.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to you that probably for many years past the administration of this Province has not been in such a deplorable state as at the present moment.

His Excellency Ali Pasha, the Governor-General, whose most ardent wish is to be removed from his present post, showed a disposition on his first arrival in the Herzegovina to favour and ingratiate himself with the Christian population. He is now however, completely in the hands of some half dozen of the most influential and fanatical Mussulmans of the place. They are the real Governors of the Province, and not a native Christian ever ventures either for business or pleasure to approach his Excellency. It is difficult to understand this change in Ali Pasha's conduct, as he is probably one of the most enlightened and liberal of Turkish officials.

For a long time past no Christian member has been present at the sittings of the "Idareh Medjliss" or Administrative Council. There are nominally two Christian members, an Orthodox, and a Roman Catholic, but the former left Mostar in the summer for Austria and has never been replaced, and the latter, feeling that any opinion he might dare to emit would be utterly disregarded, prefers to entirely absent himself.

Anything like justice is quite unobtainable in any of the Medjlisses, and the President of the "Ivnayet Medjliss" or Criminal Court, Yashi Effendi, is especially noted for his incapacity and venality. The Imperial Commissioner Wassa Effendi endeavoured to get this official removed, but all his representations on the subject to Constantinople proved worse than futile, for not only is he still maintained in his post, but latterly he has received an addition to his salary of 1,000 piastres a month.

Murders are of frequent occurrence in the surrounding country, but the perpetrators are rarely brought to justice. When the victim is a Christian but little trouble is taken to discover the murderer, but when a Mussulman, although, perhaps, the real culprit escapes, innocent persons—Christians—are arrested by tens and twenties, and subjected to imprisonment and punishment on the most trivial evidence. To give you an example, I may mention that at the present moment there are two Christians in prison here as being implicated in the murder of a Turkish "khiugee" or innkeeper who was killed about three months ago at a few miles distance from Mostar; one because he acknowledged to having heard a shot fired on the night of the murder near his residence but had not gone out to see what had happened, and the other because an unloaded pistol was found in his house, although no evidence was brought forward to show that it had been recently discharged or that the bullet which killed the Turk fitted it.

I may also mention that the Christian who in July last was accused of threatening a Turk with a pistol, as reported in my despatch No. 8 of the 14th July, but who is represented as being the most harmless quiet man and was in reality only taking his pistol to the gunsmith to be repaired, has been sentenced to no less than three years' imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 578.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 51. Political.)
Bosna Serai, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

IT would seem that lately the word has been passed for a general renewal of hostilities in all directions, and almost simultaneously have come reports of severe engagements near Alexinatz, at Vishigrad, at Yavor, and at Belina,—in all of which, we are here told, the Turkish arms have been victorious.

On the north-west frontier there has been fighting at Klioutch, also ending in favour of the Turks; and attempts were made to raise the Christian inhabitants of Teshneh, which proved ineffectual.

In the Herzegovina, Liubinje has been attacked by a large band of Montenegrins and insurgents under Peko Pavlovich, who succeeded by an unexpected descent on the town during the early morning before any one was astir, it being Ramazan, in establishing themselves in a suburb without opposition. After two days' fighting, on the arrival of reinforcements from Stolatz, the band retired, having burnt between twenty and thirty houses, and driven off a considerable number of cattle.

At Mostar, on this occasion, a demand was made by the authorities for 500 Bashi-Bazouk volunteers. The Mussulmans, however, refused compliance; but being informed that, such being the case, they must return the arms and ammunition which had been given them by the Government, they consented to furnish 360 men, but, as Mr. Freeman informs me, not more than about 100 really marched.

In Montenegro there has been also a renewal of hostilities. Both Moukhtar Pasha and the Montenegrins claim the victory in the engagements which have taken place near Zaslop, in Grahovo. On the Albanian side, it is reported that Dervish Pasha has forced an entry into Bielopavlovich, by Martinich, and that he has established his position there, the Montenegrins having been repulsed.

Mr. Freeman also informs me that warlike preparations are being actively carried on in Dalmatia. At Ragusa, vast quantities of provisions and ammunition are being collected, and the manufacture of pack-saddles for the army is being pushed on day and night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 579.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 52. Political.)
Bosna Serai, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a certain Hadji Loiyo, a bigoted and truculent Turk, who during the administration of Osman Pasha, some eight or nine years ago, was banished from Bosnia for his misconduct, but has since returned, lately placed himself on the road to Visvoko, a few hours from Serajevo, and amused himself with insulting and endeavouring to disarm all Christians whom he found travelling on that road.

This having given rise to some well-founded complaints, I represented to the Governor-General the character of the man and his antecedents, informing him also that on an occasion of his wishing to establish himself at Britcha, on the Save, the inhabitants, Mussulman and Christian, refused to allow him to do so, and drove him from the place.

His Excellency, having examined into the matter, has thanked me for bringing it to his notice, and informed me that he has sold his property and sent him out of Bosnia.

From inquiry I learn that this was effected a few days ago, the Hadji having been sent to Mitrovitza under an escort of four zaptiehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 580.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 73.)
Scutari, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

AS I have already had the honour of informing your Lordship, Derwish Pasha recommenced active operations against Montenegro on the morning of the 9th instant, by marching out of Spuz, with a considerable force, into the plain of Bielopavlicka. The Montenegrins appear to have been driven from some rocks standing in the plain at a short distance from the Turkish frontier, and which they had fortified. The fighting continuing both on the 10th and 11th, Derwish Pasha decided upon establishing his headquarters at a place about three miles distant from Spuz, called Bazar Mush by the Turks, and where his powerful artillery could maintain him secure from all the attacks of the Montenegrins.

Mustafa Djellaledin Pasha, who had only arrived in Albania ten days before as second in command under Derwish Pasha, was mortally wounded on the afternoon of the 10th, and died next morning.

The very severe measures adopted by Derwish Pasha for preventing news from reaching this from the front makes it very difficult to check the published official reports by independent information.

It seems that the Turkish soldiery are once more permitted to cut off the heads from the dead bodies of their enemies as, between the 9th and 10th, fifty-five Montenegrin heads were brought into Spuz and publicly exposed to view. Whilst European newspaper correspondents were in the Turkish camp the commanders took every step in their power to prevent all such barbarous exhibitions; therefore, I shall not fail to let Derwish Pasha know that he is wrong to imagine that such acts can be kept from reaching the public when no correspondents are near, and that discredit will fall upon him if it is found that it is only dread of publicity that prevents him from giving full license to the barbarous inclinations of his troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 581.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 196. Political.)
Cettigné, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED at 7 o'clock this morning your Lordship's instructions, conveyed in a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan, respecting the armistice proposed by the Porte.

I at once sent word to Prince Nicholas that I requested the honour of an audience; and, as soon as I had mastered the contents of the despatch, I went to the Palace, and found His Highness prepared to receive me.

I told him that I had your Lordship's instructions to press earnestly the expediency of consenting to the armistice as proposed by Turkey. I placed in His Highness' hands a Memorandum in French of the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 12th instant, and I said that in addition to the communications already made to His Highness by the French and Italian Agents, I was in a position to assure him that Prince Bismarck had sent instructions to the German Agent at Belgrade to urge upon the Servian Government the acceptance of these proposals.

I then went *seriatim* through the conditions with His Highness, discussing each of them at length, and begging him to consider and give me his ideas on them; and I did not omit to lay stress on the fact that Montenegro's best policy was to conciliate the continued good opinion of those Powers which were honestly advocating peace.

The Prince charged me to assure your Lordship that his own disposition continued to be pacific, and that, in spite of the advantages gained by his troops, he desired to put an end to the war. He would require time to reflect upon, and fuller acquaintance with, all the conditions of the armistice.

As I had presented them to him they seemed thoroughly acceptable; but he could not pronounce upon them definitely until he had consulted Servia, although he saw no reason why Servia should object to them.

I left the Palace perfectly satisfied with the result of the interview. It appeared to me to have materially changed the position of affairs, which my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues had, like myself, yesterday considered very unpromising.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 582.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 197. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the course of the conversation which I had this morning with Prince Nicholas, and which is reported in my immediately preceding despatch, His Highness asked me whether I had communicated, or meant to communicate, to my colleagues the memorandum of which I had given him a copy, reciting the tenor of the conditions of the armistice.

I replied that, when no indiscretion was involved by making such communications, I considered it my duty to my colleagues to treat them with loyalty and frankness, and that I was happy to assure His Highness that the best intelligence existed between the Austrian, French, and Italian Agents and myself, and that we were unanimous in our opinions as to the course which we should adopt in our recommendations to His Highness.

I was at no loss to understand that the Prince purposely gave me the opportunity of hinting at what I thought of the conduct of M. Yonine, who had, the previous day, deliberately attempted to deceive us respecting the knowledge he had of the terms of the armistice, and who, after he had been betrayed by the statements of his own Secretary, had been requested by the Prince to tell us the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 583.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 196. Political.)
Cettigné, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING received in the course of last night a telegram from Sir Andrew Buchanan authorizing me to come to Vienna so as to be there at the same time as the Prince, should he carry out his intention of going there, I asked His Highness this morning whether I was right in believing that he contemplated such a journey.

His Highness seemed embarrassed at the question, and said that some time ago he had thought of going, under the idea that his presence in Vienna would be useful in the negotiations respecting the Herzegovina. Upon my saying that I trusted that His Highness had not altered his mind, the Prince's manner immediately changed, and he asked me with great vivacity, "Would you accompany me if I decided upon going?" I answered that I had already received your Lordship's permission to do so; and that His Highness might conclude from that that Her Majesty's Government approved the projected visit. Thereupon His Highness grasped my hand, and said with a smile, "C'est donc un pacte, et nous serons compagnons de voyage."

I am particular in reporting this incident, as I am anxious that your Lordship should understand how the Prince's natural frankness is overshadowed by the dread that he has of being over-reached and led to commit himself; the inevitable result of his evil experience in the person of the sole diplomatic Agent with whom he has had, until recently, to deal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 584.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 199. Political.)
Cettigné, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

THE additional reports received of the recent fighting near Spuz confirm the extent of the victory gained by the Montenegrins. At least 1,200 Turks were killed; and among them Jelleladin Pasha, who lately commanded a division under Moukhtar Pasha, but who, since his quarrel with the latter, had been transferred to Albania.

It seems also that the Montenegrin loss was heavy, amounting to about 250 killed and wounded. Many of the latter have already been brought to the hospital here.

The raid into the Herzegovina, mentioned in my despatch No. 187 of the 10th instant, resulted in the destruction of nearly the whole of Lyubinje and its inhabitants, including the women and children, to the number of 1,200, and in the capture of several hundred cattle and sheep, and of other booty, which has all been brought to Grahowo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 585.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 200. Political. Confidential.)
Cettigné, October 15, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the course of yesterday afternoon the Prince's Secretary informed my colleagues and myself that, since my audience of the Prince in the morning, the advocates of the continuance of the war had been urgent with His Highness to reject the armistice. The unaccountable silence of the Austro-Hungarian Government had given a certain consistency to the rumours that something was wrong at Vienna; and it was asserted that Count Andrassy was out of office; and that an entire change of policy had been resolved upon by the Emperor Francis Joseph.

The Prince sent for Colonel Thömmel at 4 in the afternoon, and, finding that no instructions had been received by him from Count Andrassy, was emboldened to say that nothing should induce him to consent to the armistice if the revictualling of Niehsich and Medun were to form part of the conditions. These fortresses must shortly capitulate; and his troops had fairly won them.

Colonel Thömmel replied most judiciously that it was premature to discuss that topic; that undoubtedly a way would be found to save His Highness's honour; and that he was convinced that, upon reflection, the Prince would not withhold his consent on these grounds.

I was invited this evening to the Prince's smoking room; and in the course of conversation His Highness remarked on the extraordinary reserve of Austria. M. Durando pointed out to the Prince that in all probability negotiations were going on

between Vienna and St. Petersburgh in favour of the acceptance of the armistice; but His Highness adverted to the rumours mentioned above, and said that he was inclined to believe that there was some truth in them.

In the little that I thought it expedient to say on the subject, I was careful to assume that His Highness meant to accept the armistice; and I observed that not only had France formally given her adhesion to it, but that she had, I understood, already appointed a delegate in the person of the French Military Attaché at Constantinople.

I was, of course, careful to say nothing of the objections raised by the Italian Government, which, as yet, are not known to M. Durando.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 586.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 201. Political.) *Cettigné October* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE only time before the departure of the early mail to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas has this morning assured the Austrian Agent that he will raise no unreasonable difficulties to the armistice; but His Highness reserves his definite assent to it until he has the conditions in writing, and is informed of the views of Servia.

His Highness, however, thinks the proposed duration of six months too long.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 587.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1153.) *Therapia, October* 15, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, asking whether, in consequence of the uneasiness felt by the English connected with the Danube and Black Sea Railway, it might not be advisable to send a second gunboat to the Danube, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Tuckerman, the Agent of the Company, has several times since communicated to me very alarming applications from the manager of the Company for protection.

Last night he sent me a telegram again urgently asking for protection, as though a great danger were imminent, and I immediately telegraphed to Vice-Consul Sankey to inquire what grounds there were for apprehension.

I received the inclosed answer from him this afternoon, and I telegraphed to Commander Musgrave to take Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," now stationed in the Danube, to Tchernavoda, for the protection of British subjects; and I directed Colonel Sankey to communicate to the Governor of Kustendje any grounds for apprehension which he considered to exist at that place, and to call upon him to take the necessary steps for the protection of British lives and property.

The Porte declares that it has no reason to believe there is any cause for anxiety, but he has, at my request, desired the Governor of Kustendje to call in an extra police force if he sees the slightest necessity for it.

During the last few months there have been so many panics both in the capital and in the provinces, without the slightest real ground for them, that it is impossible not to feel sceptical when a fresh one occurs; but, in the present excited state of men's minds, and with the knowledge that there are designing persons striving to create disturbances, it would not be safe to disregard the warnings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 587.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Sir H. Elliot.

Kustendje, October 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

AT Tchernavoda, where population largely Circassian, from threats uttered and information I reported I consider there exists cause for apprehending danger to English. Here all quiet, but anxious feeling prevails and protection during approaching festival is desirable.

No. 588.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1155.) *Therapia, October* 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram received by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires from his Government, saying that they will not be able to press an armistice for six months upon Servia and Montenegro, and that they must therefore insist that, as originally proposed by England, it shall be for a month or six weeks, its duration to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows a necessity for it.

According to a common practice of the Russian Government, when desirous of being discourteous or offensive to the Porte, this telegram was sent *en clair*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 588.

Prince Gortchakow to M. Nelidow.

Livadia, le 14 October, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

JE télégraphie ce qui suit à nos Représentants près les cinq Grandes Puissances:—

"Ne croyons pas armistice de six mois nécessaire ou favorable à conclusion d'une paix durable que désirons. Nous ne saurions exercer pression sur Serbie et Monténégro pour les faire consentir incertitude aussi prolongée de leur situation difficile. Enfin trouvons que position financière et commerciale de toute l'Europe déjà intolérable souffrirait encore de ce délai. Devons insister sur armistice d'un mois à six semaines, proposition primitive de l'Angleterre, sauf à le prolonger si la marche des négociations en démontre la nécessité."

No. 589.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1156.) *Therapia, October* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE endeavoured, through a Bulgarian source, to learn some particulars of the persons now in London, and designating themselves as the delegates of the Bulgarian people.

According to the information given to me, their claim to the character they assume seems very doubtful.

The one of them who is a person of good family lived some time in Paris, where he was engaged in writing articles of great violence against the Turkish Government, which were sent to the newspapers in different parts of Europe; and upon his return he edited a paper with the support, it is asserted, of the Russian Embassy, which did much to encourage his country to the late insurrectionary movement.

His personal character was not such as to inspire the respect which would have led to his being selected as a representative or delegate.

The other is stated also to be a man of turbulent disposition, who, by joining the Roman Catholic Church while on a visit to Rome, forfeited the esteem of his countrymen, which he did not regain upon again recanting when he returned to this country.

My informant, who is a good Bulgarian patriot, added that it is believed that these

persons received 500*l.* from the Russian Embassy for the expenses of their journey, but I give his statement about them for what it is worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 590.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1156. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I ASKED Safvet Pasha this morning what reports had been received by the Turkish Government of the strength of the Russian force at present collected near the Georgian frontier.

He replied that it was believed to amount to about 130,000 men; but, to my surprise, he added that it need cause little anxiety, as Russia could not venture to make an attack in that quarter on account of the discontent prevailing among her own populations, and of the knowledge that they would have in their rear a warlike Mussulman people who would make common cause with Turkey.

I said that the accounts I had seen placed the Russian force at a considerably higher figure than what he had named, and as there was notoriously no Turkish army which could cope with it, the supposed discontent in the Russian provinces offered very slight security against attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 591.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1159. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship last week that, at the urgent entreaty of the Sultan, the Grand Vizier had withdrawn the resignation which he had submitted to His Majesty.

I learn, however, confidentially that this was not a very correct representation of what occurred, and that what Mehemet Ruchdi Pasha had asked was to be allowed for three months to abstain from business in order that he might have the rest that his health required.

The Sultan's answer appears to have been a peremptory message that he could not be relieved of his duties till he had got the country out of the difficulties for many of which he was responsible.

There can be no doubt that the Sultan is greatly dissatisfied with his Grand Vizier, and it must be admitted that he has too much cause.

Mehemet Ruchdi Pasha has in fact disappointed all his friends, who, although they know him to be wanting in initiative and decision, were not prepared to find him opposing every measure of progress; such, however, has proved the case, and everything that has been done has been accomplished by the energy of other members of the Government, feebly supported, if not actually opposed, by their chief.

At the Grand Councils at which he presided he put the questions submitted to them by the Government in such a manner as to imply that he did not approve of them, and he then remained silent, leaving his colleagues to fight the battle.

This was what occurred when the question of the armistice was discussed, and its acceptation was wholly owing to the energy with which it was advocated by Midhat Pasha supported by Safvet Pasha.

On the question of reforms he showed himself equally obstructive, and it may be said to have been in spite of him that decisions which ought to have been come to four months ago were at last grudgingly assented to.

His integrity, and the confidence reposed in him by the Conservative Mussulman party, give him a strength which would have rendered his dismissal dangerous; but I am assured that some of his most important colleagues are now likely to attempt to procure his fall, in spite of the difficulty of finding a suitable successor.

It is understood that Midhat Pasha would not consent to occupy the post, knowing that his reforming views have made him too obnoxious to the bigoted Mussulmans, whose influence he could hardly hope to combat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 592.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 1160.)
Therapia, October 17, 1876.

My Lord,

AT a moment when Russian volunteers and Russian supplies of all descriptions are being poured so freely into a province in rebellion against its Suzerain, it may not be without interest to show what the views formerly held by the Russian Government have been as to the duties of neighbouring States towards each other.

The inclosed extract from a local paper contains the copy of a vigorous protest by the Russian Ambassador against the Porte for having allowed two foreign officers, twelve men, and some supplies to the Caucasus at the time of the insurrection of 1857.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 592.

Newspaper Extract.

LES vues Russes relatives aux droits et aux obligations des neutres semblent avoir subi des modifications considérables pendant les vingt dernières années. En 1857, lorsque les Circassiens étaient en révolte contre le Gouvernement Russe, l'Ambassadeur Russe, M. de Bouteneff, signala au Grand Vézir qu'un vaisseau battant pavillon Ottoman, chargé de munitions de guerre et transportant deux officiers (étrangers) qui avaient servi dans l'armée Turque, ainsi que dix ou douze simples soldats Polonais, était à l'ancre dans la Corne d'Or, prêt à prendre la mer et à gagner les côtes de la Circassie. Le Grand Vézir défendit le départ du bateau, mais les munitions furent, paraît-il, transbordées sur un autre vaisseau portant le pavillon Anglais, si nos souvenirs sont exacts. Les officiers et la petite troupe Polonaise y prirent aussi passage et atteignirent leur destination. Lorsque ce fait fut connu de l'Ambassade Russe, l'Ambassadeur, M. de Bouteneff, adressa à Edhem Pacha, alors Ministre Ottoman des Affaires Étrangères, une note sévère qui portait la date du 26 Février et dont une copie est sous nos yeux. Le document se termine ainsi :—

"Le Soussigné croit superflu de relever toute la gravité d'un semblable défaut de surveillance, au moment même où il avait appelé sur ces menées la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement Ottoman; et il abandonne au jugement éclairé et impartial de son Excellence Edhem Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, d'apprécier la fâcheuse impression que ce fait ne manquera pas de produire sur le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg. L'envoi de ces secours d'hommes et de munitions, destinés à des populations en état d'hostilité avec le Gouvernement Impérial et dont la Sublime Porte avait été prévenue par les démarches intérieures du Soussigné, lui impose toutefois le devoir de protester dès à présent contre un acte aussi contraire aux relations de paix et de bon voisinage qu'aux sentiments d'amitié dont le Soussigné a été assez heureux pour recueillir l'expression de la bouche même de Sa Majesté le Sultan. En s'acquittant de ce regrettable devoir, le Soussigné saisit l'occasion, &c."

Il paraîtrait résulter de tout cela qu'en 1857, selon les idées de la Russie, ce n'était pas conforme aux relations pacifiques et de bon voisinage que la Porte, par manque de surveillance, laissât glisser une cargaison de munitions de guerre à travers le Bosphore à destination de la côte des Provinces Caucasiennes alors révoltées contre le Gouvernement Russe. Dans le cas dont il s'agit, la Russie était directement intéressée, et l'intérêt aurait pu nuancer ses opinions. Mais dix ans plus tard la Russie, de concert avec les autres Puissances Européennes, exprime une opinion contraire à la "guerre couverte" faite par la Grèce, à l'appui de l'insurrection Crétoise. Presque dix ans après cet événement nous mettent en face de la Russie permettant à ses officiers et à ses soldats d'aller, par centaines et par milliers, grossir les rangs des Serbes révoltés, facilitant la transmission de munitions de guerre de

Russie en Serbie, tolérant les efforts des Comités, encourageant les souscriptions aux emprunts Serbes—bref faisant la même "guerre couverte" qu'elle avait reprochée à la Grèce, et enfin faisant, avec une activité non déguisée, exactement les mêmes choses qui, pour un cas isolé, où la passivité avait été la seule faute des Turcs, avaient provoqué la protestation que nous avons citée. Mais ce n'est pas tout. Lorsque l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à St. Pétersbourg faisait récemment des remontrances auprès du Prince Gortchakow au sujet de l'aide effective que la Russie apportait ouvertement aux rebelles Serbes, les remontrances de l'Ambassadeur furent reçues par une fin de non-recevoir dédaigneuse, négligeant complétement les principes sur lesquels la Russie s'était basée en 1857 à l'égard de l'insurrection du Caucase, et en 1867 à l'égard de celle de Crète. Tant qu'il plaira à l'Europe de tolérer la conduite contraire aux lois internationales de la Russie, celle-ci en usera et en abusera. Mais il est temps de mettre un terme à cet état de choses, et à moins que l'Europe ne soit disposée à se soumettre à la dictature de la Russie, il faut apprendre à la Grande Puissance du Nord que la loi internationale est une loi, et que la police de l'Europe en exigera l'observance même au prix d'une guerre. Maintes accusations peuvent être justement formulées contre la Turquie; mais, quels que soient ses défauts, elle a le droit d'être traitée avec justice, et l'acte criminel de la traiter avec injustice ne sera aucunement atténué par la force de la coalition qui le mettrait à exécution.

No. 593.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 1161.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the progress of military operations in Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 593.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters' Camp, before Alexinatz, October* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin six telegrams (A to E inclusive) addressed to your Excellency since the date of my despatch of the 2nd instant.

The movement ordered for to-morrow is directed, I understand, to effect the occupation of Djunis at the meeting of the main roads which lead to Krusevatz and Deligrad, but whether it is to be restricted to that object or to be intended as the first step to any settled plan of operations comprising an advance into the country by Stabatz at the junction of the two Moravas has not transpired. It is certain only that the lines of Alexinatz-Deligrad will not be attacked, but in the event of an advance will be watched by a corps of observation detached from this army and reinforced by a division which is said to be now on its way from Constantinople.

I venture to suggest that the orders issued by the Porte at your Excellency's instance, with a view to restrain the outrages of the irregular levies, should be reiterated. The more uncontrollable of the Bashi-Bazouks have withdrawn from the camp, or have been dismissed to their homes, and the remainder have been attached to the several brigades and divisions with the view in some sort of bringing them under command; but I am not aware that their organization as paid soldiers, in the sense contemplated in your Excellency's instruction to me, has yet been effected, and without it I apprehend that their habits of plunder may prove to have been checked only by the want of opportunity.

I fear there may be some truth in the Servian complaint of the mutilation by the Turkish soldiery not of the wounded, but of the killed on the field of battle. This suspicion is justified by the three or four instances observed by myself of the heads of the slain lying severed from their bodies over a very limited portion of ground, though no cases of further mutilation fell under my notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Head-Quarters, Tuesday, P.M.

Nothing extraordinary yesterday or to-day. Enemy fortifying position on plain and in the rear. Ahmed Ayoub Pasha advised Porte that armistice terminated, but no movement apparently contemplated by Turks.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (B).

Head-Quarters, Thursday, 10 P.M.

As yet resumption of hostilities has been followed by unusual quiet, but Ahmed Ayoub Pasha preparing to advance in the direction of Krusevatz the day after to-morrow.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (C).

Head-Quarters, Friday, 9 P.M.

Nothing to report except that movement intended for to-morrow has been postponed.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (D).

Head-Quarters, Saturday, 10 P.M.

Abdul Kerim Pasha came out to camp to-day; still here. Sent to Alexinatz by the direction of Sultan thirteen released prisoners, dressed completely as Turkish soldiers; these were taken prisoners Yavor, forwarded Constantinople, back here. Servians 7 P.M. opened fire artillery, and infantry in half-an-hour repel supposed night attack; we did not move or fire.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

Telegram (E).

Sunday, 10 P.M.

Abdul Kerim Pasha returned to Nish; has ordered to attack enemy's position to-morrow in the direction of Krusevatz. Have observed headless bodies; at once and repeatedly remonstrated with Chief of Staff, who promised reform, but only one remedy: War Office issue general order to be subscribed by superior officers down to field officers, as have been read and explained to troops.

(Signed) KEMBALL.

No. 594.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 746.) *Vienna, October* 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I LEARN from the Roumanian Agent that Prince Ion Ghika is expected here on his way to England to communicate with your Lordship on the present position of the Principality with reference to its possible invasion by a Russian army.

M. Balachano said that the Roumanian army would amount to, at least, 60,000 men, and would probably retire into Little Wallachia on the entrance of a Russian force into the country; but that the policy of the Government would depend on the support which it might expect from the Guaranteeing Powers. He said that Prince Ion Ghika was, he believed, instructed to ask your Lordship whether the Treaty of Paris is still in force, and whether a violation of the neutrality of the Principality would be prevented. To inquiries which he has made on the subject of Count Andrassy he said he had received no answer, although he has given his Excellency to understand that the Government is ready to employ the military resources of the country in defence of its neutrality if it can depend on receiving support from Austria and the other Guaranteeing Powers. The

Government, he said, was convinced that they would not save Bessarabia by acting in concert with Russia; but, nevertheless, if they are left unaided by the Guaranteeing Powers they may have no other course but to endeavour by a friendly attitude towards the Russian Government to diminish as far as possible the evils which must result from a Russian occupation of Roumanian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 595.

The Hon. J. C. Vivian to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October 25.*)

Pall Mall, October 24, 1870.

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that he entirely concurs in the suggestion that Major-General Sir A. Kemball and Major Gonne should act as Military Delegates at the Turkish and Servian head-quarters respectively in connection with the proposed armistice; and further that he has selected Captain F. G. Burnaby, Royal Horse Guards, to act in a similar capacity in Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. VIVIAN.

No. 596.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 25.*)

Buda-Pesth, October 24, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IN the opinion of Count Andrassy the first step to be taken in a negotiation between the Porte and Montenegro for a separate peace should be for the Prince to state what he claims. He considers that concessions of territory on the side of Albania might be made to His Highness without inconvenience, but that were a port granted to him, notwithstanding his present annoyance at Russian money going principally to Servia, his old relations with St. Petersburgh would be re-established and his port would become virtually a Russian one.

No. 597.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 25.*)

Buda-Pesth, October 24, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY doubts the news of the proposal of the Porte respecting the armistice being accepted by Russia, but does not understand Russian objection to a long one, as he does not believe she is yet ready for war. It is of little importance, however, whether the armistice is long or short, as she can always find a pretext to begin war if she is determined to do so.

He spoke with some bitterness to-day of the vacillation of France and Italy on this question, and said that all effective action is impossible while no Power knows what is to be expected from another. I therefore said that he had better begin by telling me what he would do if a Russian army entered Bulgaria; and he answered I must be satisfied by his having already stated that, whatever happens, he is determined to defend Austro-Hungarian interests. He has endeavoured, he said, to stop provocative articles in the press here against Russia; but he has stated plainly to what he will object, as prejudicial to the interests of his country; and with regard to the reforms, he is still of opinion that the demands on the Porte should be moderate, but enforced if necessary. He is quite ignorant, however, he said, of what England intends, and as to how far her future policy may be influenced by recent popular accusations.

No. 598.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 25.*)

Vienna, October 25, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS has invited the foreign Agents to be present at a *Te Deum* this morning in honour of the recent victories. I do not intend to accompany my colleagues to the ceremony, believing that Her Majesty's Government would disapprove my taking part in it.

No. 599.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, October 26, 1876, 2·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram dated 11·30 A.M., October 24, received.

I approve your advice to Porte to accept armistice as proposed by General Ignatiew.

No. 600.

Mr. Dorie to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 25, 5 P.M.*)

St. Petersburgh, October 25, 1876, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY reports following:—

"Grand Duke Nicholas has been summoned to Livadia.

"800 torpedoes have been sent to Odessa and 500 to Sebastopol.

"General Todleben is at Odessa."

No. 601.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 25, at night.*)

Rome, October 25, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Government are strongly opposed to accepting a general measure of reform instead of one confined to the insurgent Provinces, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government under guarantee of a Protocol. It would, in their opinion, be calculated to extend Russian influence. They are equally decided against the exclusion of the Turks from the Conference, which they would consider contrary to the Treaty of Paris, and an act of injustice.

No. 602.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October 26.*)

Therapia, October 25, 1876, 7·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW presented his credentials yesterday at an official audience.

I am informed that he made a speech, in which he spoke of the interest taken by the Emperor of Russia in many millions of the Sultan's subjects who were of the same religion as himself. His Imperial Majesty had been much moved by learning the sufferings to which they were exposed, and expected that measures would be taken to render a renewal of them impossible.

General Ignatiew is to have a private audience on Saturday at the request, as he tells me, of the Sultan.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 603.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876, 2·40 P.M.

INFORM Monson that he was right in declining to attend *Te Deum*.

No. 604.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 26, 3·28 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1876, 11·30 A.M.

INFORMATION has been received of the assassination of the Turkish Consul-General and his wife at Tiflis.

No. 605.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 26, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1876, 2·45 P.M.

GENERAL IGNATIEW has told one of our colleagues that the demands of Russia are that Turkey should accept an armistice of six weeks without any engagement that Servia should renew it if she thought it inconvenient; autonomy for the three Provinces; and a Conference at Constantinople from which Turks are to be excluded.

If the Porte refuses, Russia is prepared to declare war with Turkey.

My colleague observed that perhaps Turkey might not be left alone, and spoke of the feeling that is being roused in England against Russia.

General Ignatiew answered that nothing was to be feared from England; that Her Majesty's Ambassador was mystified by his Government as was often the case, but that he had himself been in direct correspondence with your Lordship from Livadia and had ascertained that the British and Russian Governments were agreed upon all points.

No. 606.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 693.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the appointment of Colonel Lennox to be Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople is not intended to supersede the arrangement under which Sir A. Kemball is now stationed at the head-quarters of the Turkish army in Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 607.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 698.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

Sir,

MR. HOLMES will doubtless have forwarded to your Excellency a copy of his despatch No. 50 of the 12th instant to this Office, in which he forwards copy of a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, giving a deplorable account of the state of the administration in the Herzegovina.

I hasten to point out to your Excellency that this Report shows a most lamentable state of things, and that the neglect of the Porte to provide for the proper administration of the province must, if persisted in, lead to consequences perilous to the Ottoman Empire in Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 608.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 538. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me, confidentially, on the 24th instant, that a communication had reached him to the effect that General Ignatiew had reported the following statements to have been made to him by Sir Henry Elliot:—

1. That England abandons the basis of peace lately suggested by herself.

2. That he (Sir H. Elliot) thinks the project of reform put forward by Midhat Pasha preferable to the system of "local autonomy," which he looks upon as "inexecutable."

3. That Her Majesty's Government had never proposed a Conference at Constantinople.

4. That if the Conference is held at Constantinople, England declares it to be impossible to exclude the Turkish Representative.

His Excellency asked me to inform him to what extent the above statements might be relied upon as having come from Sir H. Elliot, and as representing the views of the British Government.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I could answer him at once, and without difficulty, on the four points to which his question referred.

The second allegation referred only to the supposed personal opinion of Sir H. Elliot, and need not, therefore, be dealt with at any length. Sir Henry Elliot had probably expressed a favourable opinion of several parts of the scheme of reform proposed by Midhat Pasha, and I had no doubt that he felt strongly—as I also did—the difficulties which stood in the way of carrying into effect any scheme of administrative autonomy. It was not alleged that Sir H. Elliot had in any respect either exceeded or fallen short of his instructions, and Her Majesty's Government were fully satisfied as to his discretion and judgment.

With regard to the third assertion, it was, as his Excellency must be aware, strictly accurate that Her Majesty's Government had never proposed that a Conference should be held at Constantinople. They had proposed a Conference, and, in conversation with him and others, I had more than once expressed my personal opinion that Constantinople would be, on the whole, the most convenient place of meeting; but I had never said so officially or in the name of the Government, and, in fact, I had at all times been careful to reserve entire freedom of decision on that point; which was the more necessary as I was not fully acquainted with the views of the other Powers concerned.

As to the statement that if the Conference is held at Constantinople, England declares it to be impossible to exclude the Turkish Representative, it seemed to me that there must be some misunderstanding, since Sir H. Elliot could certainly never have stated an intention to exist on the part of his Government which had not in any way been announced, or even hinted at. He might have stated, as I had done here, his own impression as to the difficulty, not to say impossibility, of excluding the Representative of Turkey from a Conference on Turkish affairs held in the Turkish capital; but the question had never been discussed among the Powers, or decided by them, and no official declaration had been made by me on the subject.

As to the first point, which, being the most important, I had reserved for the last, it was obvious, I said, that the English Government could not abandon ideas which they had put forward only a month ago, nor was it possible that Sir H. Elliot should represent such abandonment as having taken place. That he had not done so was certain; but I could understand how, on this point, a misunderstanding might have arisen.

When it seemed too probable that the bases of peace proposed by England and supported by Russia in common with the other Powers could not be accepted by the Porte, the Russian Government, as he could recollect, had suggested a joint occupation by Austria and Russia, and a naval demonstration by the combined fleets. This proposal was rejected by England, and Her Majesty's Government, in lieu of further pressing on the Porte the immediate acceptance of the bases to which objection had been taken, had proposed instead that an armistice should be asked for, to be followed by a Conference. No programme or basis for the deliberation of this Conference had as yet been laid down, but it was understood by Her Majesty's Government, and, as I presumed, by the other Powers also, that it would have for its principal object the discussion of internal reforms to be effected in the Turkish Empire. Russia and the other Powers had agreed so far as the demand for an armistice was concerned, the question of the expediency of a Conference remaining still under discussion.

It was true, therefore, that these proposals had ceased to be pressed on the Porte. One mode of proceeding having been found unsuccessful had been dropped, and another substituted, and I thought that our present mode of action had this advantage among others, that we should be less likely to differ about words such as "local autonomy," which, as we all know, admitted of various meanings.

The Conference, if it met, could deal with the things to be done, not with the names by which they should be called. I reminded his Excellency that we had been of one mind on this last point in a former conversation, and that he had agreed with me in the expediency of thus getting over the difficulty of inducing the Porte to accept a formula which appeared to be peculiarly objectionable at Constantinople.

It might, therefore, be said with truth that the discussion of the bases of peace lately proposed had been suspended, and that they had been abandoned to this extent, that it was no longer meant to press them in the same form as before for the Porte's acceptance; but the policy which they indicated was neither abandoned nor modified. The only difference was that it would now be laid before the Porte in a form less liable to create prejudice and misunderstanding.

Count Schouvaloff thanked me for these explanations, which he promised to place at once before his Government.

On the 26th instant, the Russian Ambassador again called, and stated that General Ignatiew did not require the Porte to pronounce itself beforehand on the question of the systems of "local autonomy" for Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, but had confined himself to insisting on an armistice of six weeks to two months, followed by a Conference.

The armistice might be prolonged if the course of the negotiations required it, and the Porte would come to an understanding with the Guaranteeing Powers as to the term of this prolongation.

In this manner the question of the bases of peace would be reserved until the meeting of a Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 609.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 530.)
Foreign Office, October 26, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador informed me this afternoon that General Ignatiew was demanding of the Porte nothing more than an armistice of six weeks to two months, the further prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and on an understanding between the Porte and the guaranteeing Powers. Russia, he said, does not require the Porte to pronounce an opinion beforehand on the systems of autonomy to be granted to the disturbed Provinces. These last would be defined in the discussion in Conference of the six Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 610.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, October 26, 1876.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Russie est venu me voir le lendemain, et m'a déclaré que le Général Ignatiew ne demandait point à la Porte de se prononcer préalablement sur la question des "autonomies locales" pour l'Herzégovine, la Bosnie et la Bulgarie, et se bornait à insister sur un armistice de six semaines à deux mois, suivi d'une Conférence.

L'armistice pourrait être prolongé si la marche des négociations l'exigait, et la Porte s'entendrait avec les Puissances garantes sur le terme de cette prolongation.

De cette manière la question des bases de la paix est réservée jusqu'à la réunion d'une Conférence.

No. 611.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, October 26, 1876.

LE Général Ignatiew ne demande à Constantinople qu'un armistice de six semaines à deux mois, dont la prolongation ultérieure dépendrait de la nécessité des négociations et de l'entente entre la Porte et les Puissances garantes. La Russie n'oblige pas la Porte à se prononcer préalablement sur les autonomies. Ces dernières seraient définies dans la discussion en Conférence des Six Puissances.

No. 612.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Foreign Office, October 26, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that Captain Burnaby (Royal Horse Guards), who has been selected to act as British Delegate in Montenegro in connection with the proposed armistice, may be desired to hold himself in readiness to proceed there immediately on receiving instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 613.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 74.)
Scutari, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot on the subject of the orders sent to Dervish Pasha by the Porte to continue his active operations against Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 613.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, October 16, 1876.

Sir,

M. CECCALDI, my French colleague, who is now in Montenegro forwarding the views of his Government for bringing about peace, having telegraphed on the 13th instant to his Chancellor here that the Porte had consented to the conclusion of a formal armistice, I was surprised to learn next day, from a secret source, that Dervish Pasha had been ordered, in a most pressing manner, by the Grand Vizer, to continue, without the slightest cessation, active operations against Montenegro. I trust, therefore, I was not wrong in telegraphing this information to your Excellency, especially as its correctness has now been confirmed, Dervish Pasha at once acting up to his orders by attacking the village of Novo Selo, close to Spuz, which he reports having taken and then burnt, prior to returning, for strategic reasons, with the bulk of his force to Spuz. The fortified positions of Bazar-Mush are, however, still in the possession of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 614.

Sofvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 27.)

Constantinople, le 26 Octobre, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

A LA suite de combats successifs qui ont eu lieu ces derniers jours devant Alexinatz, l'Armée Impériale a pris d'assaut une fortification construite sur une très haute montagne

et qui est considérée comme la clef du pont de Deligrad, ainsi que d'autres retranchements non moins importants. Elle s'est emparée du bourg de Coumik non loin du pont de Deligrad, où l'ennemi avait établi son quartier général, a occupé Djunissi, grand village six au-delà de Coumik sur la chaussée qui conduit du pont de Deligrad à Krachevatz et pris d'assaut plusieurs retranchements élevés en trois lignes de la montagne. Les Serbes, qui s'étaient divisés en trois colonnes, ont dû abandonner leurs positions et prendre la fuite; leurs pertes sont énormes. Du côté de Mitrovitza, les Serbes, après avoir mis le feu aux maisons Musulmanes et Chrétiennes de Manik, se sont avancés en forces considérables et avec quelques canons jusqu'à 2 heures et demie de distance de Chatal. Après un violent combat de 4 heures, les Serbes ont été totalement défaits et obligés de prendre la fuite en abandonnant leurs positions. Quant aux Serbes qui étaient concentrés aux environs de Boukovitoja, ils ont été chassés des fortifications derrière lesquelles ils s'abritaient. Le Commandant de la Division de Novi-Bazar a aussi pris les fortifications élevées par les Serbes sur les revers des montagnes. Après un peu de résistance, les Serbes ont été forcés de quitter leurs positions avancées, qui ont été occupées par nos troupes.

No. 615.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

Buda-Pest, October 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY went to Vienna yesterday to arrange with the Austrian Government the answer to be given to a question in the Reichsrath as to the present position of Austria-Hungary in the Eastern question. He was to return to-day, but will not do so until to-morrow: and, as I go to Vienna to-morrow to receive the messenger on Saturday morning, I shall not see him till my return. I have, however, acquainted the Emperor with the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of the 24th and 25th instant. His Majesty continues to place confidence in the pacific intentions of the Emperor of Russia, but is fully aware of the domestic dangers which public opinion is creating in Russia. He hopes, however, if an armistice is arranged, that the other Powers may be able to control the interpretation which Russia intends to give to the term administrative autonomy. His Majesty will spend next week in Vienna, and Count Andrassy may possibly go, during His Majesty's absence, for some days to his estates.

No. 616.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

Vienna, October 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated to-day:—

"Austrian Agent has been assured by the Prince that Russia has not sent any anti-pacific advice to Montenegro. His Highness has, however, recently received 6000*l.* from Servia and Russia, and the loan of 4,000*l.* seems to be still pending."

No. 617.

Consul-General Wace to the Earl of Derby. (Received October 27.)

Belgrade, October 26, 1876, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is believed that proclamation of Servian and also Roumanian independence is seriously contemplated; assumption of royal titles more doubtful, though probable, especially as it is said that Austria has been induced by Russia to waive her objections to some such arrangement.

No. 618.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 3·12 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOU may tell the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to send officers to arrange armistice as soon as they are informed that their services are required.

It is agreed with the War Office that Sir A. Kemball should act at the Turkish head-quarters, and Major Gonne go to Servia.

Captain Burnaby of the Royal Horse Guards will go to Montenegro.

Will Sir A. Kemball's presence be enough, or will another officer be required to proceed to the Turkish force on the Montenegrin frontier?

No. 619.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27, 3·35 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, October 27, 1876, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs told me that he had called on the Turkish Ambassador to express regret of the Russian Government at the assassination of the Turkish Consul at Tiflis and his wife. He says that it is not to be attributed to political motives.

No. 620.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received October 27.)*

St. Petersburgh, October 27, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Ambassador, who returned here on Wednesday, leaves to-night for Livadia. Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me his mission is of a conciliatory nature in the interest of peace.

No. 621.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies abroad.

Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF informed me yesterday afternoon that General Ignatiew was only demanding of the Porte an armistice of six weeks to two months, the prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and on an understanding between the Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers.

The Porte was not required by Russia to pronounce an opinion beforehand on systems of autonomy to be granted to disturbed provinces.

These last, he said, would be defined at the Conference of the Six Powers.

No. 621.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies Abroad.

My Lord,
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 27, 1876.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF informed me yesterday that the only demand to be made of the Porte by General Ignatiew was for an armistice to last from six weeks to two months, the prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and upon an understanding between the Great Powers and the Porte. The Porte was not, he said, required by Russia to pronounce an opinion beforehand upon the systems of autonomy to be granted to the disturbed provinces, as they would be defined at the Conference of the Six Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 622.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day Count Schouvaloff has given to me this afternoon another memorandum containing the following statement:—

General Ignatiew did not require the Porte to pronounce itself beforehand on the question of the systems of "local autonomy" for Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, but had confined himself to insisting on an armistice of six weeks to two months followed by a Conference.

The armistice might be prolonged if the course of the negotiations required it, and the Porte would come to an understanding with the Guaranteeing Powers as to the term of this prolongation.

In this manner the question of the basis of peace would be reserved until the meeting of a Conference.

No. 623.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 704.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 24th instant, and I have to state to you that I approve the advice which you unofficially gave to the Porte to accept the armistice on the conditions proposed by General Ignatiew.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 624.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 73 of the 14th instant, reporting that, after recent fighting in the neighbourhood of Spuz, fifty-five Montenegrin heads were brought in by the Turkish soldiery and publicly exposed to view; and I have to state to you that I approve your intention to make representations to Dervish Pasha on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 625.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 515.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador has read to me a telegram from Signor Melegari giving the substance of a conversation which his Excellency states that he has had with you, and in which you inquired what view the Italian Government took of the idea of a Conference from which the representative of Turkey should be excluded.

Signor Melegari seems to have observed in reply that if the disagreement between the Porte and other Powers became so serious as to threaten the maintenance of friendly relations, Article VIII of the Treaty of Paris directed the Porte and those Powers before resorting to force, to lay the case before the other signataries of the Treaty, with a view to mediation. He said he did not see how it was possible to exclude Turkey from a Conference which should meet to consider the application of this Article of the Treaty.

Signor Melegari adds that he did not think it necessary to discuss the possible event of a Congress of the Great Powers meeting spontaneously to consider what should be

* Repeated to Embassies.

done to relieve the countries under Turkish Government from the precarious state in which they now were. The idea of such a Congress had been favourably entertained by Russia, but Signor Melegari did not enter further upon the subject, confining his remarks to the question of a Conference which should be summoned under the terms of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 626.

The Hon. J. C. Vivian to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 27.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *War Office, October 27, 1876.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B., R.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel Home, C.B., R.E., have been ordered to proceed to Constantinople on a special service; and I am to request that the employment of these officers may be notified to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. VIVIAN.

No. 627.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 27, 1876.*

IN reply to a question put to the Austrian Government in the Reichsrath, the Prime Minister answered to-day:—"The policy of the Government being to maintain peace, is free from all thoughts of conquest, and they will in all eventualities endeavour to preserve peace. At the same time they must keep in view that their efforts to do so find their natural limits at the point at which the security and interests of the Monarchy must be defended, otherwise they would not obtain their peaceful object. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will therefore not be diverted, either by warlike manifestations or declarations of a contrary character, which might be prejudicial to the dignity of the Monarchy, from adhering firmly to these principles." In answer to a second question he said: "The policy of the Government is not to be guided by the interests of particular races, but by those of the whole Monarchy; and, if the interests of the Monarchy are maintained, those of the different parts will be equally so. The policy of Austria has hitherto been directed to the maintenance of European peace and the amelioration of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte; and this policy will be adhered to, as promoting the interests of the whole Monarchy.

No. 628.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 202. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, October 17, 1876.*

BEING anxious to neglect no opportunity, and to spare no argument available in the cause of peace, I had solicited an audience of Prince Nicholas for yesterday afternoon; but when the hour fixed by His Highness arrived, a severe attack of the intermittent malady which, too often, I fear, interferes with my efficient discharge of my duties, made it impossible for me to keep the appointment; and although His Highness sent an Aide-de-camp in the evening to summon me, as well as my colleagues, to the Palace, it was not until this morning that I was well enough to wait upon him. I would not trouble your Lordship with these personal details were it not that this unfortunate circumstance prevented my telegraphing to your Lordship as early as my colleagues were able to do to their Governments, the declaration made to them by the Prince in the sense of that which was contained in my telegram of this morning.

The Prince, as I have in that message reported to your Lordship, charged me to state to Her Majesty's Government that he, for his part, accepts the armistice, and will give his formal answer as soon as he receives the reply he is expecting from Belgrade. But His Highness said to me that he cannot consent to a longer term than two months; and that, because all the advantages of a long armistice would be on the side of the Turks. I asked His Highness if he knew what the answer of the Servian Government would be, and he replied that it would be to the same effect.

The language used by the Prince this morning to me, and which I begged him to repeat, that there might be no mistake about it, was more uncompromising than that which he seems to have employed to my colleagues last night, when I understand him to have said that he objected to the six months term, but trusted himself to the good offices of the mediating Governments.

I was determined to press the point as far as possible, and I therefore again and again returned to the subject of the long term. His Highness, however, seemed to be positive that the proposition of six months was inadmissible, and gave me the military reasons, which I had previously discussed with Colonel Thömmel, and which are certainly very strongly in His Highness' favour.

I was, therefore, very much to my disappointment and regret, obliged to telegraph to your Lordship that I feared that it would be impossible to alter this resolution.

During my conversation with the Prince, I more than once, in accordance with Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegraphic instructions, referred to the advantages which Montenegro would certainly gain by doing nothing to thwart the policy of Great Britain and Austria,—a consideration which, I could see, was not without its weight with the Prince. His Highness has, however, said two or three times to the French and Italian Agents that it would be much more satisfactory to him if he could receive from London and Vienna some explicit undertaking on his behalf. He made much the same observation recently to Colonel Thömmel, who replied that he thought that the language which he had been instructed by Count Andrassy to hold was a quite sufficient guarantee of the good faith of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 629.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 203. Political.)
Cettigné, October 18, 1876.

My Lord,

M. CECCALDI, the French Agent, told me yesterday that he had had the day before a long talk with Prince Nicholas, having accidentally met His Highness out walking. The Prince was apparently depressed and anxious, and told M. Ceccaldi that he had great apprehensions that the present negotiations would end in nothing satisfactory.

M. Ceccaldi said that he asked the Prince what His Highness thought of the designs of Russia, and seems to have understood the Prince to say that Russia was on the point of declaring war, and would make the rejection by the Porte of a short armistice a *casus belli*.

M. Ceccaldi and M. Durando also assured me that they had private reasons for believing this to be true, and were so positive that I felt it my duty to telegraph what I had heard on such excellent authority as that of the Prince of Montenegro. I also imparted these assertions to my Austrian colleague, with whom I am on terms of the most complete confidence, telling him at the same time that, from inquiries I had been making, I had reason to think that M. Ceccaldi was very liable to be influenced by the inventive genius of M. Speyer, the Secretary of the Russian Consulate at Scutari, whom M. Yonine, since the young gentleman's recent achievement in the propagation of false news in that town, has been keeping out of harm's way here.

Colonel Thömmel, having received from Count Andrassy a telegram to the effect that England was negotiating for a shorter armistice, went to communicate it to the Prince this morning, and asked His Highness what he knew of the intentions of Russia. The Prince, who expressed himself as very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for their action, replied that he did not think that Russia meditated immediate hostilities, but he was of opinion that affairs might easily take such a turn as would eventually drive her into adopting a policy of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 630.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 204. Political.)
Cettigné, October 20, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 203 of the day before yesterday, in which I reported to your Lordship that Colonel Thömmel had received from Count Andrassy a telegram informing him that England was negotiating for a shorter armistice than one of six months, I have now the honour to state that, having at an early hour yesterday morning heard by telegraph from Sir Andrew Buchanan that he knew nothing upon the subject, I lost no time in sending to Prince Nicholas' Secretary a French paraphrase of his Excellency's message for communication to His Highness.

M. Duby has informed me that he placed it immediately in the Prince's hands.

I also went at once to Colonel Thömmel, and told him there must be some mistake; but the Colonel showed me the original telegram, and proved to me clearly that England was the country referred to by Count Andrassy.

Wherever the error arose, therefore, I would submit to your Lordship that neither Colonel Thömmel nor I can be held to be responsible for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 631.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

Foreign Office, October 28, 1876.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you a copy of a letter which, by his Lordship's direction, I have addressed to the Treasury suggesting, with reference to an opinion to that effect expressed by that Board at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, that the expenses of the officers selected as military delegates to the contending armies in Servia and Montenegro should be controlled by the War Office and charged to army funds, and I am to request that you will suggest to Mr. Secretary Hardy the expediency of his at once entering into communication with the Treasury on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 632.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, October 28, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th instant, stating that Mr. Secretary Hardy approved the employment of Sir A. Kemball at the Turkish, and Major Gonne at the Servian, head-quarters, for the arrangement of an armistice, and recommending Captain Burnaby for a similar service in Montenegro, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform Mr. Hardy that Lord Derby has ascertained from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that Sir A. Kemball will not be able to act both with the Turkish forces on the Servian and with those on the Montenegrin frontier, and that it will therefore be necessary that another English officer should be selected to act at the Turkish head-quarters on the frontier of Montenegro. I am to add that, as it is possible that an armistice may be agreed upon very shortly, Lord Derby would be glad to be made acquainted with the name of the officer whom Mr. Hardy recommends should be employed with the Turkish army on the Montenegrin frontier at Mr. Hardy's earliest convenience.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 633.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

Therapia, October 28, 1876, 1·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN answer to your telegram of yesterday, I should say that Sir A. Kemball could not be employed about the armistice in both Servia and Montenegro, and that a second officer should be sent.

No. 634.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

Serajevo, October 28, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MOUKHTAR PASHA is reported to be surrounded, and in a most critical position.

No. 635.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28, at night.)

Vienna, October 28, 1876, 6·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I ACQUAINTED Count Andrassy, when I saw him at Pesth, with the language of the Roumanian Agent, which I reported to your Lordship in a telegram, dated 23rd instant, and his Excellency said that the Agent had not said so much to Baron Orczy. Having, however, to-day asked the Baron what he did say, his statements to him appear to have been nearly identic with those he made to me, with the addition that the object of his Government in retiring into Little Wallachia, if not supported by England and Austria, would be to save its war material from Russia, which the Russian army in 1854 treated as its own. He did not, however, appear to have asked for an answer as to whether or not Roumania might expect Austrian support.

Prince Ghika, who will leave for London this evening, has not seen Count Andrassy.

No. 636.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28, at night.)

Vienna, October 28, 1876, 9·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE spoken to Baron Orczy of the report at Belgrade mentioned in a telegram from your Lordship dated yesterday, that the proclamation of Servian and Roumanian independence is contemplated, with the probable assumption of the Royal titles, to which Count Andrassy was said to have waived his objections. His Excellency answered that the Austro-Hungarian Agent was instructed on the proclamation of Prince Milan as King by the army, to state that Austria-Hungary would never recognize a Servian Kingdom, and the Government has not changed its views on this point.

The Austrian Agent had, however, reported that the recognition of Servian independence would be looked on at Belgrade as some compensation for a peace on the basis of the *status quo*, but such a pretension, Baron Orczy said, could not be maintained on that basis, and no encouragement has been given to it from Vienna. Roumania and Servia are, he believes, jealously watching each other; if one declares itself independent, the other, probably, will do so likewise.

No. 637.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 377. Confidential.)

Rome, October 16, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 376 of this day's date, in which I venture to express an opinion that there is no secret understanding between Italy and Russia,

I must add that, in a great measure, that opinion is founded on the conversation between the Chevalier Nigra and Prince Gortchakow reported in Lord Augustus Loftus' despatch No. 386 of the 29th of August.

It is clear that had an understanding existed then, M. de Nigra would not have related the conversation to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and it is also a strong presumption that if he had instructions from his Government to come to such an understanding at a convenient moment, he would have been more discreet than to have aroused the attention of England to the hopes of Italy and the possibility of their realization by the aid of Russia.

I have, in addition, the frank disclaimer of the Minister for Foreign Affairs; but, with regard to that, I should make it clear that I have never hinted at a secret understanding, and that he has not used the phrase when endeavouring to dissipate the suspicion that he is acting under Russian influence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 638.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 381.)

Rome, October 18, 1876.

My Lord,

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have expressed to Signor Melegari the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the attention paid by his Excellency to their desire in regard to the advice to be given at Belgrade and Cettigné concerning the armistice offered by the Porte, and I added that Her Majesty's Government hoped that the Government of the King would continue to urge upon Servia and Montenegro not to oppose proposals made in the interest of peace.

His Excellency thanked me for this communication, and reiterated the expression of the pleasure which it gave him to act in concert with England. He then read to me the following telegram, which he had just received from M. Durando, Italian Agent in Montenegro, and of which he asked me to take a copy:—

"*Cettigné, October* 18, 10 A.M.—Autriche vient de télégraphier à son Agent de dire au Prince qu'on le remercie de son acceptation en principe de l'armistice, et qu'on le prie de tâcher de suspendre ses décisions ultérieures par ce que l'Angleterre fera une autre proposition sur la durée d'armistice."

His Excellency asked me to say to your Lordship that the news that England was going to make a new proposal regarding the duration of the armistice gave him very great satisfaction.

I afterwards said that I was desired by your Lordship to mention a communication from Mr. White, Her Majesty's Agent at Belgrade, reporting the friendly co-operation which he had met with from his Italian colleague, Count Joanini, and that I was instructed to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at this instance of the good relations between the English and Italian Agents in Servia.

His Excellency replied that it gave him equal pleasure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 639.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 380. Confidential.)

Rome, October 20, 1876.

My Lord,

THE course recently adopted by Italy with regard to the proposal of the Porte to grant an armistice to last six months has led to long conversations between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and me, embracing a wider range than the immediate point under discussion, which was whether Italy would continue to adhere to the policy pursued by the English Government or was decided to renounce it in favour of that pursued by Russia.

Signor Melegari, while refusing to prove, by an instruction to his Agents, that he continued to follow the lead of England, eagerly disclaimed the imputation of abandoning

it, but above all of abandoning it in favour of Russia. He observed that the end which the Powers had in view was peace; that he felt convinced that a six months' armistice would not be accepted by Russia, and that a joint declaration of the rest of Europe in its favour would simply lead to the isolation of the Power which held peace or war in its hands and which had already declared that, if necessary, it would act alone to protect its dignity and its interests. That he had consequently from the first endeavoured to impress upon other Governments the unfavourable view which he entertained of the Turkish proposal on humanitarian grounds, in the hopes that an accord might be come to on these grounds, which would command the approval of public opinion in Europe. He frequently said that he could not understand why Her Majesty's Government were ready to accept one thing when they had proposed another, and it was of little avail to point out to him that we had asked the Porte for an armistice of not less than one month. He would then urge that the same evasive conduct was pursued by the Porte with regard to the reforms.

Sir Henry Elliot had, he said, demanded reforms in Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, and that these reforms should be sealed by a Protocol. The Porte replied, "we will grant the reforms, not to these provinces specially, but to the whole Empire." Was it possible that England would be willing to guarantee reforms to the whole Empire by a Protocol? Such a course would be disastrous, for if a Christian had his head broken in a remote district, Russia would have a right to interfere. The independence of the Porte would be practically extinguished, and future generations would be astonished at Europe's agreeing to an act which would give so fatal a power to Russia.

On the other hand, he desired that a Protocol should be drawn up with regard to the three provinces, because the assumption of the duty to see the reforms executed in them was a possible and a moderate undertaking, and he was anxious that Italy should be a party to the undertaking, because he wished to have the right not only to interfere with the action of the Porte in those countries, but also with the action of the other neighbouring Powers. Italy could not contemplate with indifference the possible occupation of territory contiguous to the Adriatic. It bore in mind that agitators had spoken of the annexation of Thessaly and Epirus to the Austrian Empire. He considered that a Protocol regarding the three Turkish provinces named would be a safeguard against such a danger, as it would diffuse the duty of interference between the signatory Powers. The recent newspaper polemic regarding the desire of Italy to annex the Austrian Tyrol and Trieste was very unfortunate. With the most earnest desire to remain on good terms with Austria, it was not possible for Italy to make any engagement for the future in regard to such views, and, consequently, to moot the question was to produce ill-blood. He said that his own feelings concerning the Austrian Empire were not in harmony with those generally entertained by his countrymen, and that, as a member of the Government, he was compelled to keep them to himself. They were that the disappearance of the Austrian Empire as at present constituted would be a misfortune to Italy. It would mean that continental Europe had become German and Russian, and that Italy stood menaced by sea and land; but the generality of Italians did not look so far as this; and, while as Minister he might hope to shape his policy in accordance with his own views, he should cease to be in a position to put them into effect were he to announce them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 640.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 391.)
Rome, October 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I called upon Signor Melegari this morning, and, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared, having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposition. I added that they will offer no objection to a shorter term, if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but that they cannot press the Porte to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 641.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 396.)
Rome, October 23, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING returned to Rome yesterday afternoon, I called on M. Melegari this morning.

After some general conversation, his Excellency informed me that he had received good news from Constantinople, and he read me a telegram, dated the 21st instant, from the Italian Minister, stating that General Ignatiew had just called upon him, after visiting the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had informed him that he had hopes the Porte would accept the six weeks' armistice. In this case M. Melegari said he should consider peace as almost assured. It was not his intention, he said, to do anything more at Constantinople in the matter of the armistice pending the Russian negotiations.

I asked his Excellency if he was convinced that Russia really desired peace, and he replied that he was firmly persuaded the Emperor desired it, and that Prince Gortchakow would be satisfied with a diplomatic triumph.

This brought his Excellency to speak of the counter-proposal of the Porte for a five months' armistice, and the part that Italy had taken in reference to it; but after the ample reports by Mr. Malet of his conversations with M. Melegari on this subject, and the explanations which have been given to your Lordship in the two despatches read to on by the Italian Ambassador, as recorded in your Lordship's despatch No. 498 of the 16th instant, I deem it unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with a report of M. Melegari's language to me on the same matter, coinciding, as it does, with that with which your Lordship is already acquainted. The only new point, indeed, which M. Melegari mentioned was that Italy had felt herself to a certain extent in the position of a "mandataire" of the Principalities, who, when things were not going well with them, applied to the Italian Government for advice as to how they should proceed in order to obtain an armistice—an application which had been answered by recommending them to make an appeal to all the Powers,—advice which they had followed, and in consequence of their doing so it was only natural that the Italian Government should have a regard for their interests. It was impossible to assert, his Excellency said, that an armistice of five months' length, during which time, in the uncertainty of what might result from the negotiations, Servia and Montenegro would have to maintain their armies, would not be injurious, not to say fatal, to these interests.

To this I replied by saying that I did not think the charges upon Servia would be very heavy, seeing that the army which defended that country might now be considered more Russian than Servian.

In regard to the sensation which had been produced abroad when it became known that Italy hesitated to support a proposal which had been accepted by Great Britain and other Powers as calculated to bring about a pacific solution of the present complications, I observed to M. Melegari that he must not be surprised if some uneasiness had been felt as to the policy of the Italian Government, for almost simultaneously with the information thus received, appeared articles in the Italian press advocating the acquisition of fresh territory to the Italian Kingdom.

M. Melegari indignantly repelled, as he had done in speaking to Mr. Malet, the notion that the Italian Government had any ambitious motives, the article in question, which he attributed to a desire to embarrass the Government, had, he repeated, caused him the greatest annoyance; and he gave me the most positive assurance that Italy had no engagement whatever with any foreign Power, and sought only the restoration of peace in the East, and the maintenance of peace amongst the Powers of Europe.

More than once during the course of this interview M. Melegari expressed his anxious desire to see England take the lead in the peace negotiations, and his readiness to support her. It was certainly the wish of the Italian Government, his Excellency said, to be on the most friendly terms with Russia; but he considered it desirable that the Western Powers should put themselves forward as a counterpoise to the three Empires, and certainly England was the Power most in the position to be the mouthpiece of Western policy.

I cannot conclude this despatch without mentioning that M. Melegari spoke to me in the highest terms of the ability, tact, and conciliation which had been displayed by Mr. Malet during the time he has acted as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 642.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 401. Very Confidential.)
Rome, October 24, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the course of my interview with M. Melegari yesterday, his Excellency, in speaking of the mission of General Sumarakoff to Vienna, said he had very good grounds for believing that the letter which he brought from the Emperor Alexander was to reclaim the fulfilment of an engagement entered into by the Emperor of Austria at Reichstadt, by which, in certain eventualities, Austria was to occupy Bosnia, and Russia Bulgaria.

On my saying that this was the first I had ever heard of any such engagement having been taken by the Emperor of Austria, M. Melegari persisted in his statement. He did not, he said, believe that there had been any written engagement to the above effect, but he had no doubt whatever that there had been a verbal one. The Emperor of Austria, however, had, his Excellency said, pleaded that the case had not, as yet, arisen when he could be called upon to fulfil his pledge.

It was just about the time, as your Lordship may perhaps remember, of General Sumarakoff's mission that the Italian press began to speak of an extension of the Italian frontier, and, unless I am mistaken, in the event of the above arrangements having been carried out by Austria and Russia, something more would have been heard of the Italian claim for a territorial compensation.

I am quite willing to credit M. Melegari with sincerity when he now disclaims any desire on the part of the Italian Government for an acquisition of territory, but I think his disclaimer must only be taken as holding good so long as the existing territorial arrangements in Europe are undisturbed. Should there, however, be any addition to the power of either Austria or Russia in the Provinces in the neighbourhood of the Adriatic, I have little doubt that the Italian Government will consider whether they would not be entitled to set up a claim to some of the Italian Provinces of Austria. At all events, it is certain that the Italian Government will watch with the utmost jealousy any territorial changes which may be intended in that part of Europe, and would not consent willingly to the cession even of a port to Montenegro, as your Lordship will have learnt by Mr. Malet's despatch No. 346 of the 3rd instant, because it would virtually be in the hands of "another Power." His Excellency spoke to me yesterday on this subject in much the same terms as he had done to Mr. Malet.

I understood from M. Melegari that there had been a certain tension in the relations between Italy and Austria at the time of General Sumarakoff's mission to Vienna, owing to the indiscretion of the Italian press which had given rise to rejoinders on the part of the press of Austria. Another circumstance which had excited suspicion on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government was the frequent intercourse which had taken place between General Sumarakoff and the Italian Ambassador, Count Robilant, from which it was deducted that there must be something hatching between Italy and Russia. It so happened, however, that the interviews between the Russian General and the Italian Ambassador were simply in consequence of their being relatives through their wives, and had no political meaning whatever. M. Melegari added that he was happy to say that in consequence of frank explanations, the relations of Italy and Austria had been re-established on their former footing of cordiality, and he hoped they might long continue so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 643.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 402. Confidential.)
Rome, October 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to mention that in a conversation which I had yesterday with my Russian colleague, Baron Uxkull stated that he considered any chance of a conflict between Russia and Austria upon the Eastern question as now completely set aside ("écarté"), and the inference I draw from this observation, and the way in which it was

made, is that the Russian Government has been assured by the Cabinet of Vienna that an invasion by Russia of the Turkish Provinces will not be opposed by Austria.

Speaking of the counter-proposal of the Porte Baron Uxkull hinted that in accepting the five months' armistice Her Majesty's Government had departed from their own basis of arrangement, as agreed to by Russia.

I pointed out to him that in regard to the armistice what Her Majesty's Government had asked for was an armistice of not less than one month's duration, and not an armistice of a month, as he appeared to suppose, and that in accepting the Turkish proposal of one of five months it was impossible to find any abandonment of the terms which England had herself suggested.

I asked Baron Uxkull what were the grounds on which his Government objected to the five months' armistice.

His reply was that it would be an arrangement wholly favourable to the Turks. What, he inquired, was to become of the starving population during that time, the thousands of refugees who had emigrated from Herzegovina and Bosnia to Servia and Austria, &c., not to speak of the drain upon the resources of Servia and Montenegro in maintaining their armies during that long period of uncertainty as to their future destiny. Besides, added he, even if Russia could have agreed to such an armistice, the Servian Government could not have done so. If they had, the result, he said, would inevitably have followed that that aventurier (meaning Tchernaieff) would have made a resolution, deposed Prince Milan, and had himself proclaimed in his stead.

Baron Uxkull was pleased to give me some details as to the previous history of the person in question, who, he said, had, when in command of a brigade in Central Asia, violated his orders, and instead of simply following up and dispersing the enemy, as he had been desired to do by General Kaufmann, had captured Tashkend. Well, he said, Tashkend of course could not be given back again; but, for his act of insubordination, Tchernaieff was struck off the list of the army. He then became a notary at Moscow, and finding this profession unprofitable, he assumed the direction of the "Ruski Mir" newspaper, and then having proceeded to Servia, the Emperor was so enraged with him, he had ordered his name to be struck off the list of Russian subjects.

I told Baron Uxkull that Her Majesty's Government had not hesitated to accept the five months' armistice, because they felt assured that it must lead to peace; and I put it to Baron Uxkull whether it was reasonable to suppose that, with the general feeling which now prevails about the Turks, Europe would ever have permitted them to recommence hostilities at the expiration of the term proposed; the Provinces and Principalities, therefore, might have felt perfectly reassured as to their future lot.

Baron Uxkull considered it certain that Russia would attack Turkey if the Porte did not accept the six weeks' or two months' armistice now proposed by Russia, with the English basis of arrangement, to which his Government still adhered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 644.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 403.)
Rome, October 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HEAR from one of my colleagues that he was told yesterday by Baron Uxkull that the Russian Mediterranean squadron, under command of Admiral Popoff, had left the station and come into Italian ports, some of the ships being now in Naples, others in Spezia, &c.

The Italian newspapers, which generally report the movements of foreign men-of-war in Italian ports, make no mention of the arrival of any Russian ships.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 645.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 405.)
Rome, October 25, 1876.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will see by Mr. Malet's despatch No. 386, Confidential, of the 20th instant, which goes home by this messenger, how decidedly M. Melegari expressed himself to him against accepting a general measure of reform for the whole Turkish Empire, instead of requiring the one limited to the provinces under the guarantee of a Protocol, as demanded by Her Majesty's Government; and his Excellency has spoken to me also very strongly in the same sense. His great objection to it is that the practical effect of such a general measure would be to extend the influence of Russia over a much wider field. A measure of reform to be worth anything must, his Excellency argues, be accompanied by some guarantee, such as a Protocol, which would give the Powers a right to see to its faithful application. It stands, therefore, to reason, according to M. Melegari, that a general measure of reform under the guarantee of the Six Powers must inevitably turn to the advantage of Russia, and must increase the danger for the future situation by giving that Power a right of interference in every part of the Turkish dominions. The Italian Government, his Excellency said, could certainly not undertake the responsibility of being a guardian of the rights of the Sultan's Christian subjects on so vast a scale. Let the Porte give a constitution to all its provinces if it so thought proper, but first let it be preceded by special measures, such as had been sketched out under a proper guarantee to the insurgent provinces, &c. This was what had been asked for, and this was what must be insisted on.

I have found his Excellency equally strong in regard to the non-exclusion of the Porte from any Conference which may be assembled for the purpose of developing the conditions for the future administration of the provinces. Such exclusion, his Excellency considers, would be at once at variance with the Treaty of Paris, and also an act of great injustice.

M. Melegari has also expressed himself to me again to-day in the most decided terms as to the absolute necessity of upholding the territorial integrity of the Turkish Empire. It was on this account that the Italian Government, he said, had hesitated as to accepting the word "autonomy" in the English proposals, as they feared it might be calculated to imply a diminution of the Sultan's sovereign authority over the provinces in question. The terms which the Italian Government would have preferred to "local autonomy" would have been "institutions which should guarantee the equality and protection of the two races."

M. Melegari added that it was absolutely essential at the present time to guard against any departure from the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris. His Excellency does not, however, believe that, if Russia should invade any part of Turkey, it will be with the intention of remaining there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 646.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.*)

(No. 201.)
Pesth-Pest, October 17, 1876.

Sir,

IN the event of a war between Russia and this Empire, Hungary would be exposed to danger from three sections of her population. The Magyars always declare that only the Wallachs and the Serbs now give them much trouble, but the Russniaks (Ruthenes) who have dropped over the Carpathians into the north-east corner of Hungary, might then be a more or less hostile population. These three sections form nearly a semi-circle on the east and south, and lie, therefore, between the Magyars on the one hand, and Russia, Roumania, and Servia on the other. They constitute a fringe of more or less friendly territory for an invading force from either of those countries.

The Russniaks are uncultivated peasants, with priests scarcely more cultivated than themselves. In number, they are small, not reaching to 760,000 within Transleithania, but forming with the Ruthenes in Galina and the Bukowine on the other side of the Carpathians nearly 3,000,000.

The Wallachs have in their midst the flourishing Hungarian race of Szeklers (numbering 500,000 or more) and the dwindling race of better instructed Saxons; but they number in Transylvania and Hungary proper some 3,000,000. They are, however, uncultivated peasants with priests elected from themselves, who are, it is said, not independent of a trade in their village, nor sometimes of the influence of foreign suggestions. And the recent improvement in the attitude of the Wallachs towards Hungary is almost too recent to be far trusted.

The party of action against Russia maintains that the presence of the Slav and Wallach elements in the Imperial army would not diminish its efficiency, even against Russia; but the party of action with Russia declares it to be impossible for an Empire with 14,000,000 of Slavs to fight a great Slav Power, without even the Slovaks, who are not usually open to Russian intrigue, being affected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 647.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.*)

(No. 202.)
Buda-Pest, October 18, 1276.

Sir,

ALTHOUGH I am not competent to offer any opinion as to its value, except as the sincere utterance of a well-informed Turk, who, by training and conviction, belongs to the party of Midhat Pasha, I think the language of Sermed Effendi worthy of record in connection with the Eastern question.

He avers that the unfortunate relations between Christian and Mussulman are more the result of the ignorance of the masses, who cling to the letter and ignore the spirit, than the result of the teachings of the Koran, which are decidedly in favour of continual progress. Christianity has been in this respect as ill-served by its votaries as Mahometanism by its fanatics. The present danger does not lie in the impossibility of progress, but in the fact that Russia is afraid of the possibility of progress, however slow, and desires to deprive the Porte of any chance of gaining by time the advantage of contenting the Christians and satisfying the legitimate sympathy of Europe. But time is as much a necessary element as in any European country, where no great reforms have ever been forced on a nation in a day. Progress in Turkey has been very slow, and there have recently been inexcusable excesses on the part of some sections of the population. The one must be accelerated and the other prevented for the future. But even in England judicial reforms have ever been the slow growth of time, and religious antipathies of still slower decline, whilst the habits of the nation are as cast in iron as any of the habits in Turkey. Could an Englishman brave Rotten Row without the hat which fashion prescribes? And can the ignorant Mussulman be reasonably expected to change in a day his manner of thought and the habits of centuries? The criticism should be comparative, and not absolute, for, since 1839 and 1854, there has been great improvement in the position of the Christians—unfortunately too slow, whilst as regards all the subjects of the Porte, reform in government has been lamentably defective. Turkey is desirous of mending this state of things, and would not hesitate to place, even with some English troops, an Englishman as autocratic Governor of Bulgaria, with the fullest powers for reforms, and with the support of the regular troops. Perhaps it would not be unwise to offer such a post to Mr. Gladstone! There was no suspicion of English motives, but he felt doubtful about assenting to a similar Governorship of Bosnia being offered to Austria, if her troops were in any manner to enter. But the Porte would certainly resist any military occupation forced upon her for the purpose of reforms in those Provinces. The Turks would, however, be only too glad if England would take them in hand and teach them how to govern the Danubian Provinces, and lend them Indian or other officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 648.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.)

(No. 203.)

Budu-Pest, October 19, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches on the nationalities of Hungary, I have the honour to state that, according to a computation by M. Keleti, of the Statistical Bureau here, based upon the proportionate number of children speaking each language in the schools, there were three years ago rather more than 6,000,000 of Hungarians, nearly 2,000,000 of Germans, 2,500,000 of Roumanians, 2,000,000 of Slovacks, 500,000 of Ruthenes, and 250,000 Serbs, and only 200,000 Croats. But there are in Croatia and the military frontier nearly another 2,000,000 of Croats, Serbs, and other Slavs.

These statistics are supposed to give less than the true numbers. Moreover, they represent the nationality by language only. If political nationality be meant, then the most part of the Germans should be added to the Hungarians, so that the anti-Russo-Slav peoples of Hungarian political nationality would number about 8,000,000 as against the 2,500,000 of Slovacks and Ruthenes in the north, and the 2,500,000 of Croats and Serbs in the south, and the 2,500,000 of Roumanians in the east of Hungary. But the north Slavs are not united with the south Slavs, and the Roumanians do not act with either, whilst the Croats and Serbs are divided by religion. There are, therefore, nearly six-tenths of the population more or less compact as governing the remaining four-tenths split up into three nearly equal portions.

As regards the increase of the ruling races in the future the outlook is not favourable, for, although the population has slowly augmented in spite of recent epidemics, yet the increase is very slow, and as regards the ruling races is insignificant except by absorption. The ratio of births is higher than in any other country, but is neutralised by a ratio of mortality also higher. One cause is the excessive death-rate of the illegitimate children who form a large proportion of the births. Another cause is the fewness of children in the Saxon districts where the two-child system prevails, and the death of children in many of the purely Magyar districts, where an ineradicable prejudice against married women having children before the age of 24 causes disastrous results in the peasant and even higher classes. The first cause can be removed, but it is difficult to deal with the second.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 649.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.)

(No. 204. Confidential.)

Budu-Pest, October 21, 1876.

Sir,

ON the breaking out of a war between Austro-Hungary and any other country, it is believed here by well-informed persons that within the first fortnight of mobilisation an army of 200,000 men could be placed on the frontier ready to take the field, and that that number could be more than doubled in another month; and that, if the war were to be against Russia, the army would probably be concentrated in Galina and the Bukowine to the north-east of the Carpathians to undertake offensive operations towards Kiew and Odessa, and thus paralyse all movements of Russia in the Principalities and Danubian Provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 650.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.)

(No. 205. Confidential.)

Budu-Pest, October 22, 1876.

Sir,

SINCE his arrival here Count Andrassy has spoken freely with several Hungarians on the Eastern question, and the impressions which his Excellency's remarks have made are that he is sanguine as to peace being maintained in spite of the menaces of Russia, especially as she is not ready for war; that Austria-Hungary can only gain by time, even if a war be merely postponed till next spring, whereas Russia will not rapidly become more ready; and that, in his opinion, England's policy, whilst trying to satisfy Russia without prejudice to the integrity of Turkey, has done harm and displeased both countries, and diminished the confidence in her pursuing a steady policy, for the endeavour to steer a course of international necessity and at the same time trim to a passing breeze of national popularity seldom, if ever, succeeded; and Austria herself had too often made the mistake of thus trimming, whilst Prince Bismarck had been successful in taking his course regardless of temporary popularity. He (Count Andrassy) did not intend to compare himself with Prince Bismarck, but he could persist in his policy in spite of the attacks now made upon him.

As to the immediate future the impression is that Count Andrassy is prepared to send a few troops into Bosnia for the moral influence of the measure, and in order to say to Russia there is no need for a forcible occupation against Turkey; but that he is likewise prepared to resist any attempt on the part of Russia to occupy Bulgaria.

His Excellency has also said that he is not going to assume for Austria-Hungary the responsibilities of Turkey by opposing occupation at any cost, for then the political position would be like that of the hare, which being chased sees another hare started and crouches in the hope that the greyhounds would be diverted and chase the other hare. Turkey would lie still, and let the hounds go after Austria-Hungary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 651.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 29.)

(No. 206.)

Budu-Pest, October 23, 1876.

Sir,

THE Hungarian students of the University of this city have organized a torchlight procession and a serenade for the Turkish Consul-General, and have invited representatives from other towns in Hungary and from the University of Vienna, and placarded the streets with a proclamation of sympathy with Turkey and antipathy to Russia. A public meeting for the collection of money for the Turkish wounded was also arranged.

I understand that the Professors of the University and other persons, although not objecting to any manifestation of sympathy with Turkey, have advised the students to abstain from carrying out their intentions.

Yesterday, also, a deputation of the students was received by M. Tisza, who, as an "old patriot to young patriots," and admitting the legality of their proceedings, counselled them not to accomplish their projects, which might not only be misrepresented at a time when not the sympathies but the interests of the country must be regarded, but might even be misunderstood as favouring the oppression of the Christians, and might lead to counter-manifestations by other races, and even to strife amongst themselves, for an University where other nationalities were represented.

The students, however, seemed determined to carry out their projects, and have fixed Thursday for the procession.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

P.S. *October* 24.—The Professors of the University are going to prohibit the procession. Counter demonstrations in honour of Russia were feared from the Serbs here and at Agram.

J. P. H. G.

No. 652.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 260.)

Athens, October 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a speech, as taken from one of the daily newspapers, which was made in the Chamber by M. Coumoundouros on the 19th instant, describing the various measures which the Hellenic Government propose as necessary for the organization of the land and sea forces and for the purchase of war-materials, in order that Greece may be prepared to support the interests of Hellenism in the conflict with Turkey which may be impending.

These measures include universal military enlistment, and the drilling of all men aged from 20 to 30 years; the raising of two loans of 10,000,000 and of 50,000,000 drachmas, respectively, the latter of which is intended to form a military chest for the exclusive purpose of making preparations for war, and to be managed by a Special Commission, and kept quite separate from the Budget, and the imposition of additional Customs duties and of taxes upon incomes not derived from real property, upon shipping, and upon stamps, &c.

The produce of the increased taxation proposed is expected to amount to 3,000,000 drachmas, and to suffice for the interest upon the new loans, as well as for a sinking fund.

It will be observed that M. Coumoundouros alludes in the course of his speech to the expediency of coming to some settlement with respect to the former obligations of Greece, but he evidently has in view the loans of 1824-25, and not the guaranteed loan of 1832.

The whole tone of the speech would lead to the belief that the Hellenic Government had resolved to take the first favourable opportunity of engaging in a war with Turkey, or perhaps upon the more convenient way of making war indirectly by exciting insurrections amongst the Greek populations in Turkey, and by sending volunteers to support them, as Russia has done with respect to Servia.

Although such a policy might be in accordance with the present feeling of the country, it is by no means certain that M. Coumoundouros' measures will be adopted by the Chamber, and it may be hoped that the King will shortly return and exercise his influence in favour of greater moderation and prudence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 652.

Speech of M. Coumoundouros in the Greek Chamber of Deputies, October 19, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE House being formed the Minutes of the previous sitting were read and approved.

M. Coumoundouros, from the Tribune.—We must prepare ourselves! We must organize the land and naval forces of the nation. These opinions have not been inspired in us by present circumstances and events. It is a long-standing conviction. I will not go back to 1867, but I remind you of what I stated in my speech of the 20th September, 1874, to prove that we persist in the programme then prescribed by us. (Reads certain passages from that speech.)

S. Petmezas.—Is this your memorandum?

M. Coumoundouros.—It is my speech. In view of these opinions we present to you a scheme for preparations. First, we submit to you a Bill for "Universal Military Enlistment," already submitted to you last year, but to which we have now made some amendments. According to this Bill, every Greek is bound to serve, in person, in the army, except those naturally incapacitated, orphans, and those who maintain an orphan family. It is not, however, its number which gives value to an army; other things are required, namely, officers properly trained, discipline, and the like. The youths of the different schools who are now being drilled, after a certain time will be able to furnish us with worthy and able officers. The Minister of Finance will to-day present to you a Bill touching the "Collection of Taxes." By this law a smaller number of the military will be required for the collection of the revenue. The Minister of Justice, on the other hand, will submit to you a Bill touching the "Preventive Imprisonment of Criminals."

By this law the number of defaulters will diminish, and this will also diminish the necessity for employing troops for their capture. The Bill on "Military Enlistment" constitutes a permanent army and stable. After a few days another Bill will be prepared for you, for the military drilling of all men from the age of 20 to 30, and who on being called upon will have to join the army immediately.

Now it only remains for us to think about our naval force. Greece is not only a continental but also a naval Power. Many of those who either do not know or have never studied Greece, blame us for being behind in the development of our forces. The Budget can in no way be of use to us for the organization of our forces. It is impossible to make serious economies. The Minister of Finance will submit to you a Report upon the subject. As we have no hopes from the Budget we have had recourse to other means, to fresh sacrifices. We have prepared a Bill for the creation of a military chest, which I now submit to you. In virtue of this Bill a special chest is created, and for this reason Custom dues are augmented and a tax is to be levied upon net incomes, with the exception of that derived from immovables. Harbour and stamp dues, &c., are augmented, and students are also liable to a tax. The annual revenue from these items, for the present, will form a capital of 3,000,000 (1,105,263*l.*) which cannot fail to increase yearly as the country progresses. Those 3,000,000 will serve to pay the interest and sinking fund upon a loan of 50,000,000 (1,754,386*l.*) which we are seeking and which is to serve exclusively for the purpose of ships and of war material. The money will be deposited in the Bank, and the military chest will be managed by a special Committee and have no connection with the Budget. These funds, I repeat, will exclusively serve to defray all expenses incurred for war preparations. But for the projected organization of the forces funds are required; for this reason by another Bill we propose to contract a loan of 10,000,000 drachmas (350,877*l.*) required for extraordinary expenditure.

Besides preparations, we have also taken into consideration that we must come to some settlement of the question touching former obligations—not only the foreign, but also the internal debt. For this reason we shall submit a Bill establishing a chest, the revenues of which will be derived from taxes upon tobacco. In consequence of events, we have thought it requisite to re-establish taxes lately abolished.

Here, then, gentlemen, is the scheme we have prepared. It requires great sacrifices. But without taxes and without sacrifices it is impossible for us to accomplish anything valuable. The nation either must accept to submit to these sacrifices or give up its projects. There is no middle course.

We shall present some other Bills, such as Bills upon Forests, Secondary Instruction, Juries, as well as different others.

During your absence we strove to fulfil the mission you entrusted to us. We have done all in our power. We were convinced that we should be able to say that we have fulfilled our duty. We take the initiative in offering the hand of fellowship, or will with pleasure, if the Opposition is unanimous, resign office, and will advise the King to form a Government from all parties, as we have not the pretension that patriotism and prudence belong only to us. We are, therefore, ready to submit to all legal and useful sacrifices which the Opposition may desire because, unfortunately, hitherto we have failed in our personal efforts.

It is now time for things. Words are of no avail.

No. 653.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 28, 1876, 7·15 p.m.

ITALIAN Government are quite mistaken in supposing that Russian influence would be increased by including the Greek provinces in a general measure of reform.

If this were likely to be the case, Russia would not be so much opposed to it.

Nothing will increase her influence so much as privileges given at her instance to the Slavs which are denied to the Greeks, who would at once begin an agitation for similar benefits.

No. 654.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 29, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

I UNDERSTAND from my colleagues that their Governments would send only one military officer to make arrangements about the armistice with Servia and one for that (purpose to?) Montenegro, instead of having two in each case as proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 655.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 488.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1876.*

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, I have urged strongly on the Imperial Government the acceptance of the armistice proposed by Turkey, and the importance of inducing Servia and Montenegro to do so.

M. de Giers said that Prince Gortchakow had not yet taken a decision on the subject.

There were, in his Excellency's opinion, certain points to which he considered Prince Gortchakow would object.

First, it would appear that the Porte excluded the insurgents from the armistice, as no mention of or reference to them was made by the Porte. He also considered that exception would be taken to the conditions prohibiting the Principalities receiving arms, ammunition, or volunteers, and giving encouragement or assistance to the insurgents during the armistice.

I pointed out to his Excellency that, as far as I knew, the official communication from the Porte did not mention the prohibition he had referred to as "conditions" of the armistice, but merely stated them as "wishes" of the Porte conveyed to the Powers, and submitted to their appreciation, as being founded on a principle of justice and equity.

As regarded the insurgents, I considered that it was the intention of the Porte to include all the belligerents in the armistice, although no reference may have been specially made to the insurgents.

The tone of the whole Russian press is adverse to the proposed armistice, and considers it as unacceptable.

From the observations of M. de Giers, I conclude that it will not be approved by Prince Gortchakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 656.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby,—(Received October 30.)

(No. 489 A.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876.*

DURING the last few days the Russian Press has become violent and unanimous in denouncing the armistice proposed by Turkey, and in regarding its acceptance by Russia as inadmissible.

The fanatical excitement in favour of the Christians is general among all classes, and especially in Moscow, and in Southern Russia, and the feeling throughout the country for war in their behalf, is very prevalent.

I am informed that addresses are being got up to the Emperor, praying His Majesty to give military succour to the oppressed Christians, and to deliver them from the Turkish yoke.

The position of the Emperor and His Government is becoming daily more embarrassing, and the internal movement is assuming proportions which renders it more threatening than the external danger, and, if not brought under control, may force the Emperor and the Government to energetic action.

Under these circumstances, and with a view to maintain the European concert, so

essential to the preservation of the general peace of Europe, I venture to express my opinion that a compromise with regard to the question of the armistice might be brought about which in its results would be satisfactory to all parties.

I cannot but think that a proposal for an armistice extending to the end of the year would meet with general support, and would fulfil the objects which the Powers have in view.

It would be of sufficient duration to give time for the Powers to deliberate on the means of a pacification, whilst it would suffice likewise to prove the sincerity and efficacy of the negotiations for peace.

It would give time for reflection and for the excitement now raging here and elsewhere to calm down, whilst, in my opinion, it would be the sole means of adverting a Russian occupation of Turkish territory, which is otherwise imminent, the grave consequences of which cannot be foreseen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 657.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 491.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876.*

I INQUIRED from M. de Giers to-day whether he was informed of the views of the German Government in regard to the armistice proposed by Turkey.

His Excellency stated that, as far as he knew, Prince Bismarck had not expressed any decided opinion on it, but that his Highness admitted as valid the explanations which Prince Gortchakow had given for declining to support an armistice of five months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 658.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 21, 1876.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I called on M. de Giers, and requested him to inform Prince Gortchakow that Her Majesty's Government found it inconvenient to have no direct means of communicating with his Highness, and that if agreeable to the Emperor, and if possible, they wished me to proceed to Livadia for personal communication with the Chancellor.

On Thursday morning, M. de Giers called on me to inform me that he had received a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, who had taken the Emperor's orders, and instructed his Excellency to inform me that I should be "le bien venu."

I accordingly start this evening direct for the Crimea, and shall be at Yalta, close to the present residence of Prince Gortchakow.

Mr. Egerton will accompany me as Second Secretary, and I propose taking the messenger Drury, so as to be able to despatch him with my correspondence after seeing Prince Gortchakow, either to Constantinople or to Vienna.

I have instructed Mr. Doria, Her Majesty's Secretary of Embassy, to attend to the current business during my absence, and to report to your Lordship any event of interest which may occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 659.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha October 30.)

Constantinople, le 17 Octobre, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme en date du 12 Octobre, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, en copie, la note-circulaire que je viens d'adresser à

Messieurs les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople. Ce document a pour but de faire connaître aux Puissances les institutions nouvelles qui ont été élaborées par la Sublime Porte et sanctionnées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Ces institutions comportent deux ordres de faits d'un caractère distinct, bien que tendant au même but: le premier relatif au gouvernement général du pays au point de vue de l'autorité centrale, et le second à l'administration locale des Provinces. Elles doivent avoir pour effet de faire passer dans le domaine de la réalité et de la pratique des réformes qui étaient en grande partie restées à l'état de théorie.

La première considération à laquelle j'appellerai votre attention, M. l'Ambassadeur, c'est que cette grande et solennelle réforme non-seulement revêt le caractère d'un acte absolument spontané de la volonté souveraine, mais encore a été résolue et élaborée dès l'avénement au trône de Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Maître, ainsi qu'en témoigne le Hatt Impérial par lequel il a fait connaître à ses peuples le programme général de son Gouvernement, programme inspiré par le désir ardent d'assurer le bonheur de tous ses sujets sans distinction de race et de religion.

En ce qui touche l'Administration Centrale, Sa Majesté Impériale a voulu faire participer les populations de l'Empire aux affaires publiques sous la forme et par l'organe d'une Assemblée Elective. Cette institution, dont il est superflu de faire ressortir l'importance au point de vue du gouvernement général du pays, sera complétée par la création d'un Sénat nommé par la Sublime Porte et destiné à seconder l'action gouvernementale dans les matières qui lui seront dévolues.

Cette œuvre, qui réalise dans son ensemble les plus larges concessions que l'on puisse faire à l'esprit de réforme, doit être mise en pratique sans aucun retard; et déjà une Commission, présidée par son Altesse Midhat Pacha et composée de hauts fonctionnaires Musulmans et Chrétiens, a été instituée à l'effet d'élaborer sans retard et de soumettre à l'approbation Impériale les Lois Constitutives des deux Assemblées qui doivent siéger dans la capitale.

En ce qui concerne l'Administration des Provinces, les institutions nouvellement décrétées se composent, d'une part, de l'organisation antérieure qui n'a pas reçu jusqu'ici tous les développements qu'elle comportait, et, d'autre part, de dispositions complémentaires particulièrement destinées à créer un contrôle sérieux et permanent sur les actes de l'autorité administrative et à faire également participer les populations aux affaires intérieures de la Province par l'organe des Conseils Généraux et des Conseils Provinciaux dont les attributions ont été déterminées. En créant ou en complétant cette organisation provinciale, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est inspiré à la fois de son désir de doter toutes les provinces de l'Empire d'une administration régulière et de tarir la source de tous les abus, et en même temps de répondre aux vœux et aux conseils exprimés par les Grandes Puissances; et il paraît impossible qu'en jugeant l'œuvre dans son ensemble, l'Europe ne reconnaisse pas qu'en toute bonne foi le programme de réformes spontanément accordées par la Sublime Porte remplit pleinement et sans réserve le but proposé.

Il vous sera donc facile, M. l'Ambassadeur, de faire ressortir combien la marche adoptée par la Sublime Porte est préférable à toute disposition spéciale qui s'appliquerait seulement à certaines provinces, à l'exclusion des autres parties de l'Empire; système qui aurait pour effet de détruire l'unité administrative, et de créer des situations privilégiées dont le premier effet serait de jeter le mécontentement parmi les populations qui en seraient privées, alors que leur soumission constante à l'autorité souveraine semblerait, au contraire, les rendre plus dignes des faveurs du Gouvernement.

Vous puiserez, sans aucun doute, M. l'Ambassadeur, dans ces considérations les moyens et les arguments les plus puissants pour convaincre les hommes d'Etat que vous aurez l'occasion d'entretenir de cette question, de la rectitude des vues du Gouvernement Impérial dont la sincérité ne saurait être mise en doute puisque la volonté souveraine, si hautement exprimée, va recevoir sans atermoiement et sans retard une consécration éclatante par l'exécution immédiate des nouvelles institutions.

Le vœu des Puissances amies se trouvant ainsi loyalement et amplement satisfait en ce qui touche le régime administratif applicable à l'Herzégovine et à la Bosnie, aussi bien qu'aux autres parties de l'Empire, vous ne manquerez pas, M. l'Ambassadeur, de constater qu'il ne peut plus exister aucune divergence de vues entre elles et la Sublime Porte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 660.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 470.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 28, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 667 and telegram of the 19th instant reporting a conversation with the German Ambassador on the subject of the armistice, I took an opportunity of reminding Herr von Bülow that Her Majesty's Government had not proposed an armistice of one month, but that the instruction sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 1st of September and 5th of October had been for an armistice of "not less than a month," which was a very different suggestion from that of the limitation of the armistice to one month.

His Excellency recollected the text of the instruction again as I mentioned it to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 661.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

Mon cher Comte, *Londres, le 27 Octobre, 1876.*

JE viens de recevoir un télégramme de Livadia qui répond à celui que j'y ai expédié Jeudi.

Il m'annonce qu'afin d'écarter les difficultés qui se présentent en vue d'une Conférence, l'Empereur consentirait à une combinaison qui, d'une part, n'exclue pas le Plénipotentiaire Turc de la Conférence, et, de l'autre, permette aux six autres Représentants de s'entendre préalablement entre eux.

Le télégramme dit à cet effet: que si les Plénipotentiaires peuvent se réunir préalablement en délibération pour former des conclusions sur les bases de la paix, la Conférence serait ouverte ensuite en présence du Plénipotentiaire Turc et avec sa participation.

J'espère, cher Comte, que cette solution vous paraîtra satisfaisante, et qu'aucune des Puissances n'y fera des objections.

Si l'entente pouvait s'établir ainsi, ce qui arrivera sans nul doute, si vous soutenez la proposition, il semblerait que les obstacles qui se sont présentés sont écartés, et que rien ne viendra plus troubler le courant pacifique qui, grâce à Dieu, s'est établi depuis quelques jours.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 662.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, October 29, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning. He told me he considered the armistice question as almost arranged, and he is anxious that the Conference should be organised immediately.

He mentioned the compromise on the subject of the participation of Turkish Representative, by which the Representatives of the Six Powers would meet together for deliberation, and, when agreed, will present their decision at a Conference at which Turkish Representatives would assist. Your Lordship's peace proposals will be the basis, and the Representatives of the Six Powers will deliberate on their development and mode of execution.

His Highness said that Russia must insist on the reforms being real and effective, and not on paper, and likewise on a control and guarantee for their due execution; nature of guarantee would be matter for deliberation in Conference of Six Powers.

It appears to me that he aims at withdrawal of the Turkish garrisons and officers from the three Provinces, leaving the administration in the hands of the Christians, under the suzerainty of the Porte; nothing less, his Highness said, will satisfy Russia, who is determined, if necessary, to impose it.

General Ignatiew reports Sultan as willing to meet the wishes of the Emperor, and anxious to be relieved from his present difficulties; but both Sultan and Government seem to fear popular excitement, which paralyzes their action.

Prince Gortchakow represents state of affairs at Constantinople as dangerous and menacing to the Christians, and hinted that the Sultan might require support against his fanatical subjects.

In regard to Austria Prince Gortchakow was reserved, but evinced no hostile spirit, merely stating that the two Governments were in frank communication in regard to their mutual interests.

Whole question, in my opinion, depends as to whether Porte can or will grant such autonomy to the three Provinces as will satisfy Russia, and whether Austria will consent to it.

I shall despatch Queen's messenger after my audience of the Emperor on Tuesday or Wednesday.

No. 663.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876, 11 A.M.

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed last night as follows:—

"Complete Turkish victory; the whole enemy's positions on left side of the Morava captured, with eleven guns. Servian loss heavy, including many foreigners. Turkish loss small. Enemy's positions of extraordinary strength, natural and artificial, literally taken with a run."

No. 664.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30, 4·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 30, 1876, *noon.*

DJUNIS taken yesterday afternoon by the Turks. Servians retreating. Prince Milan left in the night for head-quarters, leaving authority with Minister for Foreign Affairs to accept armistice, which Russian Consul is confident his Government will obtain from the Porte at once.

No. 665.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876, 5·32 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to send more Military Delegates than the other Powers. Major Goone can go to Servia, and Captain Burnaby to Montenegrin frontier, leaving Sir A. Kemball available if required.

When the time comes for them to start let me know by what routes they should go.

No. 666.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876, 6·24 P.M.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has informed me that he has received a telegram from Livadia, stating that, in order to avoid the difficulties arising about a Conference, the Emperor agrees to an arrangement which, without excluding the Turkish Representatives, would admit of the Representatives of the six other Powers coming to a preliminary understanding among themselves.

The telegram goes on to say that if the Plenipotentiaries of the six Powers could meet preliminarily and discuss and come to a conclusion on the bases of peace, the

Conference could be opened afterwards in the presence and with the participation of the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

No. 667.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 30, 1876.

MR. ASHMEAD BARTLETT, just arrived from Deligrad, begs me to report that disloyal feeling in Servia towards the Russians is now intense.

Russian military arrogance and frequent outrage on Servian women has entirely alienated all classes.

Servia fearful of absorption and loss of democratic institutions.

Should your Lordship desire to see Mr. Bartlett immediately, please telegraph to me.

No. 668.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

(No. 542.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE to instruct you to ascertain and report to me confidentially on the following points:—

1. Whether the Russian soldiers serving in Servia have been permitted to leave their regiments by the Russian Government for that purpose.

2. Whether the Societies which are supplying Servia with money and materials are doing so in violation of Russian law.

3. Whether cannon and rifles, &c., have been sent from Russian Government factories.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 669.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 544.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me the substance of a telegram which he has received from Livadia, and which is to the following effect.

In order to avoid the difficulties arising about a Conference, the Emperor agrees to an arrangement, which, without excluding the Turkish Representative, would admit of the Representatives of the six other Powers coming to a preliminary understanding among themselves.

The telegram goes on to say that if the Plenipotentiaries of the six Powers could meet preliminarily and discuss and come to a conclusion on the bases of peace, the Conference could be opened afterwards in the presence and with the participation of the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 670.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 545.) *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

THE time has arrived when it may be useful that I should place on consecutive record the various efforts which Her Majesty's Government have made for the preserva-

[a] An identic despatch was addressed to Consul-General White.

tion of peace in Eastern Europe, so that the position taken up by them during the recent negotiations may be accurately defined.

Her Majesty's Government, having reason to believe that the good offices of the Powers would be acceptable to Servia and Montenegro, informed Mr. White, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, on the 14th of August, that though they would not propose mediation unless it were asked for, he might suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

On the 24th of August a telegraphic despatch was received from Mr. White reporting that Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, had asked the Representatives of the Six Powers to transmit to their Governments his application for re-establishing peace between the Porte and Servia, and for a prompt cessation of hostilities with that view. His Highness added that it would be desirable to include Montenegro in the pacification.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their satisfaction at receiving this announcement, and lost no time in communicating it to the other Powers. They also instructed Sir H. Elliot to point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace; since, if hostilities continued, the interference of some of the Powers seemed probable, and the consequences might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

Some delay arose before the Prince of Montenegro's formal adhesion to the Servian request for good offices was received, and the assent of the Powers could be procured. This having been done, in order to obviate any question as to the mode of proceeding (the Austrian Government having objected to a collective note), Her Majesty's Government took the initiative on the 1st of September, by instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of terms of peace,—the armistice to include all combatants.

The other foreign Representatives at Constantinople supported Her Majesty's Ambassador in making these proposals. The Porte, however, objected to an armistice, notwithstanding the strong representations which Sir H. Elliot was directed to address to them.

On the 14th of September, the Turkish Memorandum in answer to the proposals of mediation was received. It stated the conditions of peace expected by the Porte from Servia, as follows:—

"1. La personne investie de la dignité de Prince de Serbie devra venir dans la capitale pour rendre hommage à Sa Majesté.

"2. Les quatre forteresses dont la garde seulement avait été confiée par le Firman de 1283 au Prince de Serbie, et dont la possession *ab antiquo* était demeurée au Gouvernement Impérial, seront réoccupées par l'armée Impériale comme par le passé; et sur ce point on se conformera strictement aux dispositions du Protocole du 8 Septembre, 1862.

"3. Les milices seront abolies. Le nombre des forces nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans l'intérieur de la Principauté ne dépassera pas 10,000 hommes avec deux batteries d'artillerie.

"4. Ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman de 1249, la Serbie sera tenue de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes qui y émigreraient, et, excepté les forteresses qui existent en Serbie *ab antiquo*, toutes fortifications postérieurement établies devront être complétement démolies.

"5. Si la Serbie ne se trouve pas à même d'acquitter l'indemnité dont le montant sera déterminé, le tribut actuel de la Principauté sera augmenté de l'intérêt de la somme représentative de l'indemnité.

"6. Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents ou par une Compagnie Ottomane, à son choix, la ligne qui devra relier Belgrade au chemin de fer aboutissant à Nisch."

The Memorandum added, however, that the Imperial Government submitted these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable consideration of the Mediating Powers. With regard to Montenegro, the Porte held to the *status quo*. As soon as the Powers had expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte would give orders to suspend hostilities within twenty-four hours, and resume friendly relations with the two Principalities.

A message was at the same time delivered to the Dragomans of the Embassies to the effect that, without waiting for the opinions of the Powers, the order for the cessation of hostilities would be sent that night or the next morning. The demand of

the Powers being thus practically complied with, it was hoped that they would induce the two Princes to give corresponding orders.

Her Majesty's Government expressed satisfaction on the receipt of this intelligence, and instructions were sent to Mr. White to press the Servian Government, if necessary, to give similar orders. It was stated, however, that in so doing, Her Majesty's Government must not be understood as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte, some of which they considered to be quite inadmissible.

On the 17th of September Sir A. Buchanan reported that the Porte had notified in writing a suspension of hostilities until the 25th.

On the 18th Sir H. Elliot was instructed to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accepted the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it would be further extended in case of necessity, and that they had reason to believe from the language held by the Russian Ambassador that his Government would take the same view.

In the meanwhile Her Majesty's Government, finding that the Porte objected to an armistice, but were prepared to negotiate terms of peace, had been in communication with the other Powers respecting the provisions which might properly form the basis of pacification, and which I had, in the first instance, communicated to the Russian Ambassador. They were—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guarantees of a similar kind against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

And it was added that any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, the resumption of the right of Turkey to garrison Servian fortresses, or the deposition of Prince Milan, would be regarded as inadmissible.

The Austrian Government having objected, in the first instance, to the idea of autonomy as applied to the insurgent provinces, it was explained that by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, nothing more was intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions which should give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There was no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Upon receiving this explanation the Austrian Government declared themselves prepared to give, in principle, their complete consent to the proposals, expressing at the same time their desire that it should be formally recorded that the reforms already required from and accepted by the Porte in the Andrassy note should form the basis of the "local autonomy."

The other Powers, while they were unanimous in rejecting the proposals of the Porte, also declared themselves willing to join in recommending the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

Sir H. Elliot was therefore instructed on the 21st of September to state formally to the Porte that the following were the provisions which seemed to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

His Excellency was instructed to add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last would be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they might be applicable, for Bulgaria.

He was further to state that as the continuance of hostilities, while the conditions of peace were in consideration between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

After conferring with his colleagues, Sir H. Elliot fulfilled the instructions given to him, and communicated on the 25th September the conditions of peace proposed by

Her Majesty's Government, which were supported a few days later by the Representatives of the other Powers, including Russia.

On the 24th of September Sir H. Elliot reported that the Porte had not yet consented to a formal armistice, but was willing to prolong the suspension of hostilities until the 2nd of October.

Prince Milan, however, rejected the proposal, professing himself ready to conclude a regular armistice, but not an arrangement like the one hitherto in operation, which he considered ill-defined.

Her Majesty's Government, in reply, expressed their surprise that Servia, after having asked for the mediation of the Powers, should have thought fit, without further consultation, to refuse the prolonged suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey; and this at a time when endeavours were making to obtain for her more favourable terms of peace than the issue of the campaign gave her a right to expect. They thought it proper to add that any attempt on the part of the Servian commanders to renew active operations would throw on Servia the responsibility of the consequences, and forfeit the support of England. Hostilities were, nevertheless, resumed, and in explaining the action of Russia in the matter, Count Schouvaloff told me that though his Government had advised the Servian Government not to renew hostilities, yet that they could not press the matter, as they had from the first required the conclusion of a regular armistice.

It had, in the meantime, become evident that the Turkish Government entertained strong objections, both to the signature of a Protocol promising reforms in the insurgent provinces, by which they said the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired, and to the expression of "local autonomy" as applied to those reforms.

On the 26th September, Count Schouvaloff communicated to me proposals from the Russian Government that, in the event of the terms of peace being refused by the Porte, Bosnia should be occupied by an Austrian and Bulgaria by a Russian force, and the united fleets of the Powers should enter the Bosphorus. The Russian Government stated themselves, however, to be willing to abandon the proposal of occupation if the naval demonstration was considered sufficient by Her Majesty's Government.

General Sumrokoff arrived in Vienna at the same time with a similar proposal.

On the 3rd of October a suggestion was made in conversation with Count Schouvaloff that in case of an unfavourable reply from the Porte to the proposals then before it, the Powers should fall back upon their original demand for an armistice.

Count Schouvaloff said that he would telegraph this suggestion at once to Livadia, and on the following day his Excellency called and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow which he had received, although he was not certain that it was in answer to his message. Prince Gortchakow's telegram was to the following effect:—

A regular suspension of hostilities of sufficient length not having been established, and the negotiations for peace having encountered unexpected difficulties at Constantinople, the contest had been renewed in the valley of the Morava.

The Imperial Government could not be indifferent to the bloodshed thus caused, and the Emperor proposed to the Guaranteeing Powers that it should be arrested by immediately imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties, so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I had no difficulty in submitting this proposal to my colleagues, and informed Count Schouvaloff that Her Majesty's Government had decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for a basis of peace. They had, I said, on the other hand, been unable to concur in the measures of occupation and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

Sir Henry Elliot was accordingly instructed, on the 5th, in the event of the terms of peace which had been proposed by the Powers being refused, to press upon the Porte as an alternative to grant an armistice of not less than a month, and to state that, on the conclusion of an armistice, it was proposed that a Conference should immediately follow. He was further to intimate that, in case of the refusal of an armistice, he was instructed to leave Constantinople, as it would then be evident that all further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin would have become useless.

Her Majesty's Government, at the same time, informed the Governments of the other Powers of this proposal of an armistice, and the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the armistice should be followed by a Conference.

The plan of renewing the demand for an armistice received unanimous support, but the suggestion of a Conference gave rise to some objections and inquiries. The Austrian Government, in a despatch, the substance of which was communicated to me by Count Beust on the 9th of October, while stating their desire not to thwart the action of England, requested information on the following points:—

1. Whether the Porte is to take part in the Conference.
2. Where the Conference is to meet.
3. If the Conference is to be composed of the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries, or of Plenipotentiaries.
4. What is to be the programme of the Conference.

They stated that it would depend upon the information derived from the answers to these questions whether they could waive the objections they entertained to the idea. Until then they were of opinion that a Commission at Constantinople, such as had previously been suggested, would be a preferable plan, and would more profitably employ the time allowed by the armistice.

As Count Beust did not ask for an immediate reply to the above queries, I told his Excellency that I must reserve my opinion on the first point, namely, whether or no the Porte should be represented in the Conference. It would be necessary to ascertain the views of other Powers, which were still unknown to me.

As to the second question I must equally reserve a final expression of opinion; but, personally, I was inclined to think that Constantinople would be on various accounts the most convenient place of meeting.

As to the third, I considered that the personal attendance of the various foreign Ministers at a Conference, whose sittings might last some time, would be in many respects unadvisable.

As to the fourth, I agreed in the view, which I understood to be that of Count Andrassy, that a Conference without a basis was not likely to lead to good results; and I thought that a programme, more or less definite, ought to be agreed upon before it met; but the terms of such programme would require care in framing, and I could only say that it should be submitted to the Powers in due course.

On the other hand it appeared that the Russian Government were likely to stipulate for the exclusion of the Turkish Representative from at least the first portion of the deliberations of the Conference—a step which seemed to make it undesirable that Constantinople should be the place of meeting.

In a despatch addressed to your Excellency on the 11th of October, I reverted to the subject of the influx of Russian volunteers into Servia, which had already formed the subject of conversation between Count Schouvaloff and myself. I pointed out the embarrassment caused to the Roumanian Government by the passage of these volunteers through their territory, and stated that Her Majesty's Government considered that the Government of Prince Charles had some right to complain that their conscientious efforts to remain neutral were thus thwarted. I went on to say that the Government of Great Britain would be the last to suggest the repression of sympathy with a popular cause as long as it did not exceed the limits prescribed by international law, but that the presence of Russian officers and soldiers in the Servian army had assumed proportions little short of national assistance.

If the Emperor of Russia was as sincerely desirous of a speedy and peaceful termination of the war as Her Majesty's Government believed him to be, he could scarcely be insensible to the difficulties thus thrown in the way of a settlement.

The assistance so openly given to Servia must tend to excite irritation and suspicion in the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and at the same time to raise the hopes of the Servian Government and render them less inclined to listen to reasonable terms. Beyond this there was the danger, that the presence of so large a foreign element in the Servian army might lead to a spirit of insubordination and constitute its commanders into military chiefs, independent and impatient of the control of Prince Milan's Government.

These considerations Her Majesty's Government wished to press on the serious attention of the Emperor and his advisers, and you were instructed to take an opportunity of expressing yourself to the Russian Government in this sense.

On the 12th of October the Turkish Government communicated to the Representatives of the Mediating Powers at Constantinople a note, in which they stated

that, taking act of the proposal of the Powers for the re-establishment of peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and while declaring themselves ready to submit to the decision of the Powers on the conditions they had themselves proposed, they were ready to consent to the conclusion of a regular armistice. They considered, however, that it should extend to six months from the 1st of October to the 31st of March. They requested, at the same time, that the Powers should name delegates to arrange the terms of the armistice on the spot, and stated that they were ready at once to give the necessary instructions to their troops, and that then the delegates would have to come to an understanding with the commanders of the contending armies on the details of the armistice, and with respect to the necessity of not permitting the Servians to re-occupy the positions now in the possession of the Imperial troops. The Porte further hoped that the Powers would take measures to put a stop to the introduction of arms and munitions of war into the Principalities, as well as to the influx of volunteers, and felt confident that the Powers, while impressing on the Principalities the necessity of scrupulously observing the obligations imposed by the armistice, would be able to prevent all attempts on their part to encourage directly or indirectly the insurrectionary movements in the neighbouring provinces, or to furnish aid to the insurgents.

On the same day a general scheme of reform was promulgated for the whole Ottoman Empire, the substance of which was communicated to me on the 13th by the Turkish Ambassador. These reforms consisted in the establishment of a Senate and of a Representative Assembly to vote the budget and taxes, a revision of the system of taxation, the reorganization of the provincial administration, the full execution of the law of the vilayets, with a large extension of the right of election, and other measures of reform, including the practical measures which had been desired to be introduced into Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Immediately on learning by telegraph from Sir H. Elliot the intention of the Porte to grant a six months' armistice, I pressed upon Count Schouvaloff and Count Beust the importance of their Governments inducing Servia to accept the armistice. I also urged this through Her Majesty's Embassies at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome, and sent instructions in the same sense to Belgrade and Montenegro.

The Russian Ambassador expressed his doubts whether the armistice would be accepted at Livadia. I thought it right to warn his Excellency that, however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. I said that, rightly or wrongly, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

On the 12th I learned from Lord Lyons that the French Government would send immediately instructions to the French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to accept the armistice, and on the 13th the Austrian Ambassador informed me that his Government accepted the proposal of six months' armistice, would do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States, and would use their best efforts in that sense both at Belgrade and with the Prince of Montenegro. They still declined, however, that they could not determine their course as to a Conference without knowing the programme. They considered the exclusion of a Turkish Representative contrary to the Treaty of Paris, and they hoped that the questions of armistice and Conference might be kept separate, and the armistice agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to future negotiations.

On the 12th the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had expressed himself against a long armistice, and when reminded by Sir H. Elliot that his Government had asked a short time previously for one of three months, replied that circumstances had changed, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with the present proposal; and on the 16th Count Schouvaloff communicated to me the telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated Livadia, October 14th, of which the following is a translation:—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace, which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged. Lastly, we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and pointed out to him that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month;" no objection being taken on our part to a longer term.

The Italian Government likewise demurred to the proposal for a long armistice.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government thought it right to make an appeal to that of Germany, which had hitherto remained uncommitted to either view. I accordingly requested the German Ambassador to lay the matter before the Cabinet of Berlin, and to inquire whether they saw an opportunity of exerting their influence to procure the acceptance of some compromise which might avert the danger, now to all appearance imminent, of an open rupture between Turkey and Russia.

On the 19th instant his Excellency communicated to me Prince Bismarck's reply, which was to the effect that although an armistice of six months appeared to the German Government acceptable, and they would have wished Russia to accept it, they did not think that taking into account the position they had held till then, they would be justified in exercising a pressure on the resolutions of other Powers. Prince Bismarck suggested, however, that perhaps an armistice of six weeks might offer some chance of a solution.

In this state of things, as it was evident that any efforts to bring about the acceptance of the Turkish proposal of a six months' armistice by Servia and Montenegro were checked by the attitude of Russia, Her Majesty's Government felt that further efforts on their part were useless. I therefore informed the Russian Ambassador that having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to withdraw their acceptance or to make any new proposition. I stated, however, that Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte were willing to consent to it, but that they would not press the Porte to do so.

I have since learned from Sir Henry Elliot that the Porte has informed the Russian Government that they agree to an armistice of six weeks, on condition that if the negotiations are not ended by that time, it should be renewed for a similar term, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

In the foregoing summary of the negotiations, I have indicated the successive steps which Her Majesty's Government have taken to secure an agreement among the Powers. Upon the application of Servia for their good offices they first obtained the support of all the Powers to a proposal to the Porte of an armistice of not less than a month, and on the Porte advancing terms of peace as a counter-proposal, Her Majesty's Government submitted to Russia in the first instance, and then to the other Powers, provisions which might in their opinion form the basis of pacification, and which likewise secured the concurrence of the Powers. When subsequently difficulty occurred in obtaining the acceptance of these provisions by the Porte, Her Majesty's Government, again in concert with Russia, recommended that the proposal of an armistice should be reverted to and pressed it upon the Porte in the strongest manner of which diplomatic action will admit, at the same time suggesting a Conference—a suggestion which, from what had previously passed, Her Majesty's Government had reason to suppose would also prove acceptable to the Russian Government. If obstacles have been interposed which have frustrated the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, they have not been occasioned by any failure on their part to meet objections in a conciliatory spirit. The object which has been sought throughout has been to arrive at a speedy and durable pacification.

Her Majesty's Government have felt that the continuance of the present war, which was commenced in defiance of the public remonstrances of Russia and the Powers, is all the more lamentable from being unnecessary, since there are no avowed ends to be attained by it which could not be better and more surely arrived at by peaceable discussion. It has long been evident that, so far as the improvement of the condition of the disturbed districts of Turkey and of the non-Mussulman population generally throughout the Empire is concerned, the unaided action of Servia and Montenegro could have no practical effect, and that, from the time when the question passed into the hands of the Mediating Powers, further bloodshed served only to add to the distress and misery of the population.

Her Majesty's Government have done all that has been in their power to procure the cessation of hostilities and the re-establishment of peace for which Servia and

Montenegro appealed to their good offices. They believed that this would be accomplished by a prolonged armistice, and supported that proposal accordingly, feeling convinced that such an armistice meant peace; nor could they regard the period as unreasonable, inasmuch as the discussions which took place in 1861 with regard to the constitution of the Lebanon occupied from the 22nd of January to the 9th of June. They regret that other counsels have prevailed, and that the uncertainty of the situation has thus been continued, with the commercial and agricultural distress which must ensue from it in Servia and Montenegro and the adjacent districts. They are unable to see how the constantly impending possibility of war can be otherwise than ruinous to all the countries concerned, and would hail with satisfaction any proposal which might bring such a state of things to an end.

They cannot, however, consider that it lies with them to advance any fresh propositions, and, while most anxious to co-operate with the other Powers in any measures of pacification in which the Powers may concur, must refrain from pledging themselves to anything which may impede their liberty of action hereafter should the rights and interests of this country be affected.

Your Excellency will read this despatch to Prince Gortchakow, and give his Excellency a copy of it, stating at the same time that Her Majesty's Government feel assured that he will find in it a convincing proof of the earnest desire which they have shown to act in concert with the Russian Government, and to maintain in all respects the good relations subsisting between Great Britain and Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 671.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 461.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy.

His Excellency stated in it that Austria had in the first instance declared herself in favour of an armistice of six months, as proposed by the Porte, believing that a long suspension of hostilities offered the best chances for the conclusion of a permanent peace.

Now, however, Count Andrassy said, that the Turkish proposition had been definitely set aside, in consequence of the opposition of some of the Powers, and that all the Cabinets—especially that of London—had adhered to the new proposal, the Austrian Government had determined on instructing Count Zichy to unite with Sir H. Elliot in recommending an armistice of six weeks, under the conditions for prolongation proposed by General Ignatiew.

I explained to Count Beust, in reply, that Sir H. Elliot had not been instructed to support the proposition of General Ignatiew, but only to state that Her Majesty's Government would not offer any objection to it if the Porte thought that, under the circumstances of the case, compliance was better than refusal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 672.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 462.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.*

IT appears from Mr. Monson's despatch No. 198 of the 14th instant, which has passed through your Excellency's hands, that he is under a misapprehension as to the position which he was intended to fill in case of the contemplated visit of Prince Nicholas to Vienna taking place.

On the 13th instant, your Excellency forwarded a telegram which you had received from him, in which he states, confidentially, that he had been informed by the Austrian Agent that the Prince had decided to go to Vienna as soon as the question of the armistice was settled, and on the same day you telegraphed that he reported that the Austrian Agent had urged him to ask for leave of absence, in order that he might

accompany the Prince; and you observed that, owing to his confidential relations with his Highness, his presence during the visit might be useful.

I concurred in your view that he might be useful to you, and I considered that, as he holds the rank of Second Secretary to the Embassy, there could be no difficulty about his presence at Vienna. I consequently telegraphed to you that you might instruct him to proceed to Vienna, so as to be there at the same time as the Prince, if the visit should be paid, but I purposely avoided authorizing him to accompany his Highness on his journey.

Notwithstanding this reservation, he has informed the Prince that he had received my permission to accompany him, adding that his Highness might conclude from this that Her Majesty's Government approved the projected visit, thus assuming that Her Majesty's Government wished him to be at the Prince's side during the journey, and that they attached to his being there political significance.

This assumption is entirely erroneous, and I should wish to learn how the misunderstanding has arisen. What he has said cannot now be recalled; but, upon being informed what my views are upon the subject, he will probably be able, if the visit should take place, to arrange his own journey in such a way as not to allow an impression to be publicly entertained that Her Majesty's Government had instructed a British Agent to accompany his Highness, for political reasons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 673.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.*

IN reply to your despatch No. 52, Political, of the 13th instant, I have to convey to you my approval of the steps which you have taken to procure the removal from Bosnia of a fanatical Turk named Hadji Lonjo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 674.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 706.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that I do not understand what is meant by General Ignatiew when he says that he has been in direct correspondence with me from Livadia.

No such correspondence has taken place, nor has any such agreement between the British and Russian Governments been arrived at as is mentioned in your telegram.

I need scarcely add that your Excellency has been kept most fully informed of all that has passed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 675.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 707.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to depute officers to act as Military Delegates to arrange the details of the armistice as soon as they are informed that their services are required.

I have been in correspondence with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War on this subject, and it has been agreed that Sir A. Kemball shall act at the Turkish head-quarters in Servia, and that Major Gonne shall proceed to Servia to act in a similar capacity at the head-quarters of the Servian army.

Captain Burnaby, of the Royal Horse Guards, will receive instructions to go to Montenegro.

I have to request that you will inform me whether Sir A. Kemball's presence will be sufficient, or whether it is desirable that another officer should proceed to the Turkish forces acting on the frontiers of Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 676.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 708.)
Foreign Office, October 30, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 29th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government do not propose to send more military delegates than the other Powers.

Major Gonne can, therefore, go to Servia and Captain Burnaby to the Montenegrin frontier, and this arrangement will leave Sir A. Kemball available, should his services be required.

I have to request that when the time comes for these officers to start, you will inform me by what routes they should proceed to their respective destinations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 677.

The Hon. J. C. Vivian to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 30.)

(Confidential.)
War Office, Pall Mall, October 30, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th instant, notifying the appointment of Sir H. Elphinstone and Lieutenant-Colonel Home, R.E., to proceed to Constantinople on a special service, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the employment of Sir H. Elphinstone on this service has been counter-ordered, and that Captain Frazer, R.E., will accompany Lieutenant-Colonel Home in his place.

It has also been thought desirable to send two subaltern officers of Engineers, Lieutenants Cockburn and Chermside, for employment on this service.

I am to take this opportunity to request that the Ambassador at Constantinople may be directed to furnish Lieutenant-Colonel Home with any moneys he may require during his stay in Turkey, to be accounted for by that officer to this Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. VIVIAN.

No. 678.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 45.)
Tunis, October 24, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 25th of September, on the subject of the public subscription which His Highness the Bey had authorized in aid of the Sublime Porte, I have the honour to state that the money collected amounts to 2,300,000 Tunisian piastres (54,760*l.*).

Half of this sum has been already forwarded to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 679.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 206. Political.)
Cettigné, October 21, 1876.

My Lord,

COLONEL THÖMMEL and I were taking a walk yesterday evening in the outskirts of Cettigné, when we met Prince Nicholas, accompanied by the Vladika, and a detachment of guards, hurrying back to the town. His Highness, on seeing us, exclaimed, "I have excellent news to tell you;" and it appeared that he had just received a telegram announcing the capitulation of Medun. His Highness was naturally overjoyed; the more so, as news had already been received that Dervish Pasha had withdrawn from the positions he had recently occupied on the Montenegrin frontier near Spuz, so that on the Albanian side Montenegro has been evacuated by the enemy. The Prince read us the telegram respecting Medun amidst the enthusiastic "zivios" of his attendants. We accompanied His Highness to the palace-door, where the detachment of guards fired three volleys, and were then glad to escape into the inn, as every one in the streets, and at the doors and windows of the houses, hastened to discharge his revolver, heedless of the fact that they were loaded with ball cartridge. It being already dusk, the town was forthwith illuminated, and the whole Russian colony repaired in haste to the palace to offer their congratulations, not without having first taken care to express their loud delight at the probability that there would be no more question of an armistice!

The fall of Medun is doubtless a very important success for the Prince. It disengages a large Montenegrin force, which may be employed to overwhelm Moukhtar Pasha, who is in a very dangerous position on the Herzegovinian frontier; or the same force may be directed towards Servia, to threaten the Turkish communications with Roumelia; and especially will the event be of influence, by the sensation it will immediately produce upon all the hill tribes of Albania.

The mail closes so early this morning that I doubt if I shall have time to report to-day the result which a night's reflection on this great success has had on the Prince's mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 680.

Mr. Edwardes to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 31.)

(No. 208.)
Buda-Pest, October 25, 1876.

Sir,

IN yesterday's "Pester Lloyd" appeared an article on the present political situation, ascribed to a pen which is believed to be, at least, inspired from high official quarters.

After remarking on the reported reaction in Constantinople against reforms, and on the military operations and endeavour of the Porte to bring about internal reforms, and on the time wasted therein, it proceeds to say that, although a conservative policy would wish for a consolidation of the Turkish Empire on reasonable bases, it is far from allowing it to be held that such is the only solution. "The Porte itself has obliged the Powers to renounce calculating, or, at least, exclusively calculating, any longer on the integrity of Turkey as a solution of the present situation."

An expression of opposition to the Panslavist policy of Russia does not imply conditionless sympathies for the Turkish Empire. In this matter sympathies and antipathies play no part; true interest alone will have to decide the policy of Austria-Hungary, acting with Turkey if possible, but, if necessary, even without her.

To-day an article on the same subject closes with the remark that, although the sympathies of this country belong naturally to Turkey, any identification of the policy of Austria-Hungary with that of the Porte could only bring about an alliance which would weaken, rather than strengthen, this Empire. Austria-Hungary without such an alliance is stronger, not only for her own interests, but for those of Turkey, and although she will give her voice in favour of Turkey before Europe, that she alone should

undertake to stop the course of events and bring about a solution is not to be expected from her by even those who may hold the most romantic political ideas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

No. 681.

Mr. Edwardes to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 31.)

(No. 209.)
Buda-Pest, October 27, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a deputation of the students belonging to this town waited, on the 22nd instant, on the Minister-President Tisza, to request permission from his Excellency to make a demonstration expressive of their sympathy for Turkey by a procession to and a serenade in front of the house of the Turkish Consul-General. His Excellency told them that he was not prepared to give them a formal prohibition on the subject, but that he considered any such proceeding was uncalled for and most undesirable, and certainly would provoke counter-demonstrations. He added that they had far better show their sympathy by collecting money, &c., in aid of the Turkish wounded.

On Wednesday, however, the students were forbidden by an order of the Rector of the University to continue in any way the political demonstrations they had initiated, and this was shortly followed by a formal announcement of the Mayor of Pesth that the procession, &c., could not be allowed to take place, and forbidding the general meeting of students which had been summoned for that evening. One of their leaders thereupon went to the Minister-President, requesting an audience for a deputation, which his Excellency granted for 5 o'clock.

The result of this interview was communicated later to a large body of the students, who were told that his Excellency had, in the most peremptory terms, stated that he never would allow them to carry out their intentions in face of the orders of the competent authorities; and it was further made known at this meeting that the Turkish Consul-General had declined the honour addressed to him.

The students then proceeded to the house of M. Jokai—a very popular author, and a member of the Landhaus—who addressed a few words to them, entreating them to give up all idea of political demonstration, reserving their enthusiasm for a day when it might be required of them.

On the following evening the students again assembled before a café-house, where a committee of them was sitting, at which it was determined that their intention to carry out the demonstration should not be given up; that until it could take place they would devote themselves to collecting money in different ways for the Turkish wounded; and that they would make known through the press their sympathy for the Turkish people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

No. 682.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 756.)
Vienna, October 28, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, in which I gave your Lordship the substance of the reply of the Prime Minister, Prince Auersperg, to two questions which had been addressed to the Austrian Government in the Reichsrath, respecting the action of the Imperial Government in the Eastern Question, one of which was signed by 115 members of the Constitutional party, and the other by members of the Czech-Slavonic section, I have now the honour to inclose a translation, *in extenso*, by Mr. Charlton, of these questions and the replies given to them.

It appears that Prince Auersperg's answers, and particularly his manner and tone in delivering them, gave much offence, and great excitement prevailed in the House; His Highness being interrupted when he spoke "of declarations prejudicial to the dignity of the Monarchy," by angry inquiries as to whom he referred, and by some members intimating that he was threatening the House.

There has been a discussion in the clubs as to whether the incident should be allowed to pass without a debate, but I am told that the irritation which it had excited is subsiding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 682.

Extract from the "Neue Freie Presse."

(Translation.)

HAS the Imperial Government influenced, as far as its duty permitted, the conduct of foreign affairs with respect to the Eastern question; with what object has it done so, and is it prepared to accept responsibility for the policy which will be pursued by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the matter?

2. Has the Imperial Government exercised this influence so as to secure peace for Austria-Hungary in the event of the Eastern difficulties resulting in a war, and especially so as to stay any attempt at an acquisition of foreign territory?

3. Does the Imperial Government consider that its influence will prevail in this respect?

Prince Auersperg replied to the foregoing three interpellations in the following terms:—

"Although our Constitution does not empower us to influence directly the conduct of the foreign affairs of the Empire, such an influence must, nevertheless, of necessity arise from its reactionary effect on the internal policy of the country.

"The Imperial and Royal Government has not deviated from its sense of duty in this respect, but has throughout, in every phase of political action, received the fullest explanations from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Government has not thought fit to exercise any more decided influence, because the policy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs which they had endorsed from the first, and which had besides been approved of by the Delegates, has been strictly adhered to. The Cis-Leithanian Government is in a position to state that at the present moment the conduct of our foreign policy has, by its continual peaceful efforts, done much for the cause of the peace of the Empire, as well as for that of Europe.

The responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs falls principally, according to the Constitution, on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who considers it to be not only his duty but also his right to assume that responsibility. The Imperial and Royal Government is no less ready to bear its own share.

"As regards the second and third questions I am in a position to state that, as the policy of the Monarchy has been all directed to the maintenance of peace, it is free from all thoughts of conquest. No one appreciates the blessings of peace more fully than the Government of His Imperial and Royal Majesty. The whole conduct of our foreign policy is in itself a proof of the honesty and consistency of their efforts. We are therefore in a position to declare that the Foreign Minister, with the full approval of the Imperial and Royal Government, will endeavour to maintain the general peace, even in the case of those eventualities mentioned in the interpellation, and will continue to use all the means in their power to maintain the peace of the Monarchy.

"At the same time it must also be kept in view that these efforts find their natural limits in the duty of maintaining energetically the interests and security of the Monarchy under all circumstances.

"A policy which was merely one of peace, without this limitation, would, it is true, give precedence to the interests of the Monarchy, but would not be really calculated to secure peace.

"I have sketched the line of policy followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and which has been approved of by the Imperial and Royal Government. I have only to add that the Foreign Minister is determined not to be led away from the policy to which he has steadily adhered, either by manifestations of a warlike nature or by declarations which might possibly be prejudicial to the power and dignity of the Monarchy."

In reply to a further question as to whether the Government is prepared to obtain from the Foreign Minister, and to communicate to the House, the necessary explanations as to what measures have been and will be taken in order to procure such a political position in the Balkan Peninsula as would express the interests of the Empire, as well as the wishes of the Slav population, and bring about a peaceful solution of the questions affecting the Christian inhabitants of that district, Prince Auersperg said:—

"The policy of the Common Ministry for Foreign Affairs is not guided by the interests of particular nationalities, but exclusively by those of the whole Monarchy, and this is more particularly the case as the interests of the whole Monarchy are the same as those of its different parts.

"From the beginning of the Oriental difficulties the Foreign Office, in concert with the Government, has kept two objects in view, viz., the maintenance of European peace and the amelioration of the Christian population in the Balkan Peninsula.

"This policy, the object of which is that the Christian population of the East should obtain the blessing of quiet and civilization, is in the interest of the whole Monarchy, and does not require to be influenced by the promptings of separate nationalities."

No. 683.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876, 10·20 P.M.

AN agreement is very nearly come to between the Porte and General Ignatiew about an armistice of two months, to be prolonged for six weeks if the progress of the negotiations should make it necessary, with further prolongation of six weeks, upon understanding to be come to between Porte and the Powers.

Some slight modifications appear, however, necessary in the terms of the arrangement, which I hope may be effected to-morrow.

No. 684.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 30, 1876, 11 P.M.

RUSSIAN Representative is of opinion that the Porte will consent to six weeks armistice, and that he will make representation here accordingly.

If my colleagues receive instructions to support him, am I to join them, supposing I hear in time of the Porte's acceptance?

No. 685.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 2·25 P.M.

IT is proposed to send Major Gonne as British Military Delegate, to arrange the armistice with the armies in Servia, as soon as an armistice is agreed to.

Can he be conveniently spared from Austria for the purpose?

No. 686.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

THE following appears in Reuter's telegrams in this evening's newspapers:—

"*St. Petersburgh, October* 31.

"The 'Official Gazette' of to-day announces that General Ignatiew has been instructed to demand from the Porte the acceptance, within forty-eight hours, of a six weeks' armistice, and a suspension of hostilities.

"Should the Porte not accept, all diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey will be broken off, and General Ignatiew, with the whole *personnel* of the Russian Embassy, will leave Constantinople."

No. 687.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, 5·44 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 1 P.M.

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed yesterday as follows:—

"'To-day Kruschevatz will be occupied, to-morrow Alexinatz will be attempted. If successful, terms of armistice will be arranged with the greatest ease.'"

No. 688.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, *en clair*, the Russian Ambassador has informed me this afternoon that General Ignatiew had been instructed to demand an answer to the Russian proposal of armistice within forty-eight hours, under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte.

No. 689.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 31, 1876.

THE following paragraph appeared in the official part of this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg":—

"*St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Octobre*, 1876.

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur a daigné ordonner aujourd'hui $\frac{30}{18}$ Octobre que l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatiew déclare à la Sublime Porte que si dans un délai de deux jours elle n'accepte pas un armistice de six semaines ou de deux mois, et si elle ne donne pas des ordres immédiats pour arrêter les opérations militaires, l'Ambassadeur quittera Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade et les relations diplomatiques seront rompues."

No. 690.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

I HEAR from the Porte that Alexinatz is taken.

No. 691.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 543.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

YOUR Excellency will, no doubt, have observed that the information given to me by Count Schouvaloff respecting General Ignatiew's demands, stated in my despatch No. 538 of the 26th instant, differs in some degree from the report given in the conclusion of my despatch No. 539 of the 20th instant.

I have to explain to your Excellency that both these accounts were taken from memoranda given to me by Count Schouvaloff, the first of which I received in the morning, and the second (that in my last-mentioned despatch) in the afternoon of the 26th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 692.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 557.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and confirmed the statement which had already appeared in a Reuter's telegram, as published in the "Gazette de St. Pétersbourg," that General Ignatiew had been instructed to demand an answer to the Russian proposal of armistice within forty-eight hours, under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 693.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 709.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

MR. CONSUL BLUNT, in his despatch No. 79 of October 13, reports to me that he has urged the Pasha of Salonica to take immediate steps to effect the release of a Bulgarian girl, said to have been carried off from Batak by a Mahomedan of Nevrocup, who is endeavouring to convert her to Mahomedanism.

Mr. Holmes informs me that he has reported to your Excellency on this subject, and I have to state to you that I consider that Mr. Blunt's conduct in this matter should be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 694.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Immediate and Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy, that since my letter of the 27th instant was written, a telegram has been received from Sir H. Elliot reporting that the other Governments propose only to appoint two Military Delegates, one to arrange the armistice with the armies on the Servian and the other on the Montenegrin frontier.

Under these circumstances Lord Derby has telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot that Her Majesty's Government have no wish to appoint more Military Delegates than the other Governments, and will confine themselves to sending Major Gonne to the Servian and Captain Burnaby to the Montenegrin frontier, leaving Sir A. Kemball available at the Turkish head-quarters for service if required.

Lord Derby has also instructed Sir H. Elliot to report the routes which Captain Gonne and Captain Burnaby should take when the time arrives for them to proceed, and has inquired of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna whether Captain Gonne can conveniently be spared from Austria-Hungary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 695.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

IN the arrangement proposed yesterday about the armistice, it was stated it would be concluded under the guarantee of the mediating Powers.

I have said that I am not in a position to give guarantee of Her Majesty's Government for the observance of the armistice, and I suggest that the expression should be "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

General Ignatiew also advocates this change.

No. 696.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 3 P.M.

WOULD it not be best that Sir A. Kemball should be the delegate to arrange the conditions of the armistice, and that Captain Gonne should afterwards remain on the spot to watch over its observance?

The Military Attachés of some of the other Embassies will go from here as Delegates, but I hardly think that General Kemball should be kept on the ground after the armistice is regulated and defined.

No. 697.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 5·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN Government have disapproved the arrangement concerted with General Ignatiew for an armistice of two months' subsequently to be prolonged if necessary, and have ordered him to send in an ultimatum requiring the Porte to accept the armistice of six weeks or two months unconditionally.

If this is not accepted within forty-eight hours, relations between the two countries are to be broken off, and General Ignatiew is to leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy.

This ultimatum will be sent in to-night if the Council of Ministers now sitting does not signify to General Ignatiew the acceptance of the conditions.

No. 698.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 7 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW'S telegram ordering General Ignatiew to break off relations with the Porte is conceived in very harsh and peremptory terms.

Turks are represented as having offered an insult to Europe by carrying on offensive military operations while an effort was being made to conclude an armistice, and it is intimated that the Powers will not tolerate such proceedings.

As the Servians never at any time, even during the nominal suspension of hostilities, desisted from offensive operations, the accusation against the Turks appears very gratuitous.

The loss among the Russian officers in late fights has been very heavy, and General Ignatiew is convinced this and the fall of Alexinatz will render public feeling in Russia uncontrollable.

No. 699.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 31, 1876, 10 P.M.

IT is reported that communications are going on between Prince Milan and the Prince of Roumania, with a view to induce the latter to come to the rescue of Servia by crossing the Danube.

More Russian volunteers expected. Servian disaster much greater than was at first supposed.

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* Repeated to Embassies.